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ISSUE 34 ■ MAY 1992 ■ £3.95

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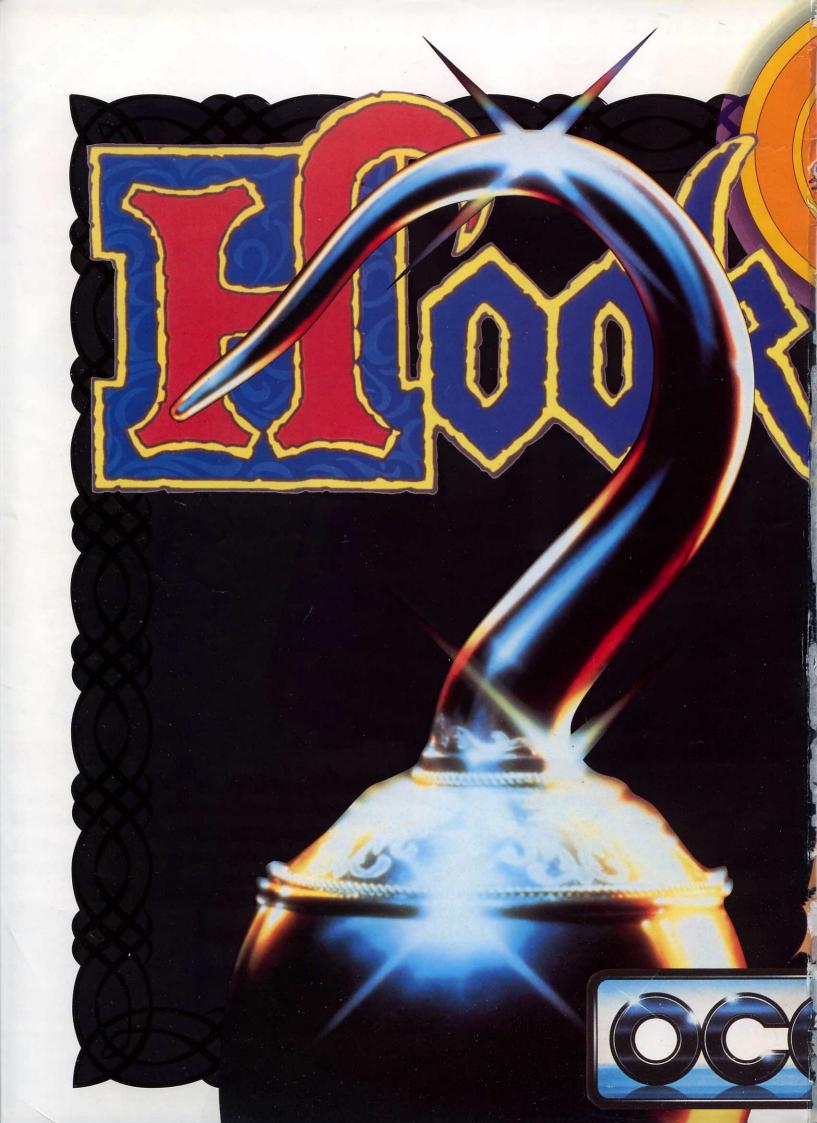
You too can create games

Suss all the tricky techie stuff with Easy AMOS!



STUNNING NEW RELEASES! It's great, it's here: the best Amiga sound sampler ever! **GREAT NEW GAMES: Vroom!.** Elvira II, Dynablaster, Titus







AMIGA FORMAT 34 MAY 1992

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No part of this publication may be transmitted or reproduced in any form without the permission of the publishers. Ooh, that sounds butch!

Observation of the month: Why is it that the rediscovery of Kick-Off results in no work getting done?

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.



Registered Circulation 130,143 July - Dec 1991

News

FIRST NEWS OF THE NEW AMIGA! Read all about the new Amiga 600 – possibly the first genuinely innovative Amiga released since the A500! We've got the first official details of the new machine!

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Driving pushes the limits in Jaguar Racing from Core

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IN NEWS: the first official details of the new Amiga in the range. Get your first look at the Amiga 600, which boasts a number of exciting new features... and find out all about it here, first!

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Which game has hit the coveted Number One spot?

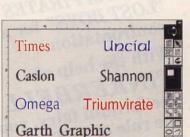
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This latest version of the top DTP program should keep it top of the heap: but can it face up to the new, strong competition?



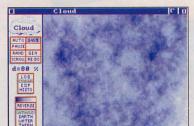
Easy AMOS

Always wanted to try your hand at programming, but never found an easy place to start? If so, your prayers have been answered!



REVIEWED: **Audio Engineer Plus**

The best Amiga sound sampler just got better: be there in the line with cash in your hand!



IN PUBLIC DOMAIN

Add realistic skies to vour Vista landscapes with this excellent fractal clouds utility.

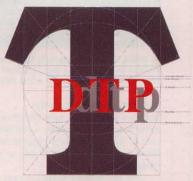


Move up to DTP

Every time we ask readers which feature of their Amiga they would most like to explore, DTP comes out tops. Why not try it yourself?

The rewards are immense: you'll be able to produce your own publications; from fanzines and newsletters to glossy colour magazines.

But it's a tricky and technical area, with its own jargon and techniques. What you need is the simplest guide ever to Amiga DTP... starting now!





Getting to grips with Workbench

199

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If you're confused about the Workbench disk, follow our simple guide to what it is, what it does, and how you can get in there and do it too!

Welcome to Amiga Format!



Damien Noonan, Editor

Hello and welcome to AMIGA FORMAT, the world's best-selling magazine especially for Amiga owners!

You are now reading the biggest-selling computer magazine

in the whole of Britain. Part of the reason for this is that the Amiga is far and away the most popular home computer there is: and home computers are owned by dedicated, enthusiastic people who really care about getting the best from their machines.

But we also like to think that it's because we genuinely care about bringing you the best possible magazine. This magazine is created by an enthusiastic team of experts who are constantly striving to make this the magazine that you most want to read. To our way of thinking, this is a simple formula: it's all about news, reviews, advice and exploration.

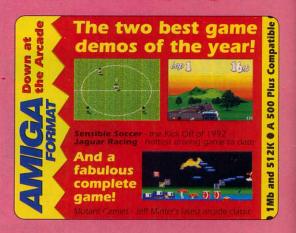
We want to bring you the exciting news first: that's why we've fought against the odds to bring you the full story of the new Amiga, the A600, this month.

Our reviews have consistently been voted by computer retailers as the ones that help them most when they're deciding what to stock: so we are clearly to be trusted when it comes to advice on what to buy. You can normally rely on us to bring you the first reviews of new software and hardware: and you can certainly trust our integrity when it comes to deciding what to buy.

Then there's the tips and advice sections: Gamebusters for cheats and clues on beating the best games, and Workbench to answer all your questions on the more technical side of things.

Add in the features that help you explore new areas, like the exciting world of DTP this month, and you have a package that can't be beaten for quality. Read on!

COVERDISK turn the page!



Sensible Soccer



The boys at Sensible looked closely at their fave soccer game and decided they could do it too! The result: a frantic, exciting footie demo. Play it!

Jaguar Racing



Everything a driving game should be and more: it's fast, it's absorbing, it's beautifully put together and stars a stunning vehicle. Core car action!

Revenge of the Mutant Camels



Get a large dose of stunning arcade action in the form of the latest complete game from star coder and bonkers hippy Jeff Minter. Go came!

on page 11...

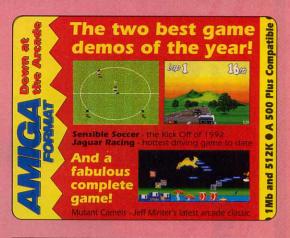


A 500 Plus Compatible • 1Mb recommended •

PageSetter 1.2

The second in The Amiga Format Collection series of COMPLETE, FULL-PRICE PACKAGES, this is the ideal way to get started in DTP. Gold Disk's beginners' package includes not just a layout package with which to paste your text and pictures into finished pages, but also a graphics program and a simple word processor too. You'll be impressed: find out where to start by starting on Page 11...





Coverdisk

Here's a Coverdisk that will even put your local games arcade to shame. And Pat McDonald provides all the necessary info to get you waggling that joystick in absolutely no time at all.

GETTING STARTED

If you're reading this box you must be a new reader, so concentrate on learning the way of the Coverdisk. All you have to do is put it in the disk drive after switching on your Amiga. After a few seconds, a cut down version of Workbench will load.

Move the mouse pointer to the large Amiga Format Coverdisk icon, and double click with the left button. A large window will open on the screen, showing icons for the three programs (Revenge, Jaguar Racers and Sensible Soccer) as well as for the Revenge Readme document.

To look at any of the programs, just double click again with the left mouse button on the relevant icon. None of the programs allow you to quit (although the Revenge document does). To look at any of the other programs, reset the computer by pressing the Ctrl key and the two 'A' keys either side of the space-bar all at the same time.

Oh yes, and if you want to play two-player Revenge or Sensible Soccer, you will need two joysticks! It may seem obvious but if I had a penny for every phone call I got...



We've made the Coverdisk as simple as possible — all you have to do is double click on the disk icon, then double click on the program that you want to run.

REVENGE OF THE MUTANT CAMELS



By pulling down n the joystick, the Camel can be made to lie down. If the goat is in front of the camel then it will leap on for a free ride.

Jeff Minter PAL only

This is a simple, but very addictive shareware game from the assembler of Jeff Minter, a stalwart of the independent programmer's scene. Revenge can be played by one or two people using joysticks.

The plot is fairly simple. All you have to do is walk from left to right through 20 levels of increasing mayhem, shooting nasties and avoiding damage to your beasts as you go. That's all there is to it really.

Revenge starts on the Attract screen. To start playing, press the fire-button to go to the options screen, and fire again. Alternatively move up and fire to look at the high scores, or down and fire to return to Attract mode.

Revenge can be played in three different ways; Solo, CPU Assist or Two player. In Solo you just control the camel, with no help at all it's the most difficult way to play the game. CPU assist gives you a computer controlled goat helper, to provide twice the fire-power. Two player lets somebody else control the goat via a second joystick.

Every few levels in Revenge there is an Oasis screen. This gives a special code, which can be entered when starting a new game to skip levels you've already completed.



The more shots that you pile into the nasties as they fall, then the more tokens that will come floating down the screen.

The controls of Revenge are fairly simple, but I'll describe them to avoid confusion. You don't need to press the fire-button to fire both beasts will automatically fire all the time. Instead, when you press fire and move, you control the directions that you're firing in. Diagonal firing seems to be the most effective.

Movement is a bit more complex. By pulling down, the camel will crouch - if the goat is ahead of it, the goat will jump on the camel's back to present a smaller target to the nasties. So if your camel hasn't a rider, crouch down and get one! Note that you cannot crouch on the left-hand side of the screen the camel is too busy dancing.

Some levels have obstacles on the ground. These can usually be shot, but an easier tactic is to jump over them. To jump, push up with the joystick - and avoid any hovering nasties, as contact with them will eventually prove fatal.

The way to win in Revenge is to keep shooting the nasties - not once, not twice, but as often as you can. The more hits you get, the more tokens come floating down the screen. Nearly all the tokens that come down are beneficial, and they can do things like increase your fire-power, give you bonus lives, smart bomb the opposition and so on.

SHAREWARE - YOUR CHOICE!

Revenge is shareware. That means that, if you like the game, you are supposed to send £5 (or the equivalent in foreign currency) to Jeff Minter, to repay the time and trouble he took over the game. If you don't like it, don't bother. And feel free to pass on copies to those interested, so they can decide for themselves. Simple eh?

If you like it and don't bother paying the programmer for his work, nobody is going to chase you over the matter. But remember that effectively you are stealing off the guy, and the Yak (as Jeff is sometimes known) is no fool.

He's been programming for over 10 years, sometimes releasing games through software houses, but more usually through his own label, Llamasoft. He likes programming the Amiga, because he likes writing the sort of arcade game that looks (and sounds) best on an Amiga. If Jeff doesn't get many shareware payments from Amiga Format readers, then he just won't bother doing any Amiga versions of his games anymore. That will be great pity, because what he really loves doing is games with masses of playability. But he needs to make a living at his trade, and if other computer owners are more honest, then he will go for those markets. Same goes for other shareware programmers.

It's up to you. More details on the shareware deal can be found by double clicking on the Revenge Readme document - spend a while reading it as it's very long. You can also (for once) print it out if you have a printer. Personally, I love the game, and my cheque is on its way.



WELCOME TO AN early preview of what could probably be the best driving game on the Amiga. The Jaguar XJ220 is arguably the fastest saloon car yet built, and now you can try racing it for yourself!

The Coverdisk demo is a five lap race over a fairly long course, so be prepared to have a few attempts before you manage to finish it in first place. Starting right at the back of the field certainly doesn't help but as you've the fastest car on the track, it's certainly possible, Just,

One other thing to bear in mind is that the car is fitted with an automatic gearbox. So you can concentrate on finding the right moments to steer and brake, rather than having to maintain your engine and gearbox.

The controls are very simple indeed. Use a joystick to steer left and right, pull back to brake (it's very powerful - use it sparingly) and keep pushing the fire-button to accelerate.

Maintaining the right line is very important. In general, it's far easier to try and pass cars on the left (their blind side). This is necessary on the first lap, as your car can blast through 15 or more cars before they've really got going.

As the race progresses, you gradually pick up the layout of the course. There's only one bend that you must brake for, and it occurs just before the marshes pop up - about two thirds of the way around the track. Remembering just when and where to brake is the hardest part of the demo.

A slightly less tricky part is the marsh stage itself. Going off the road will bog down your car very quickly, so keep steering away from the edges. At the same time, puddles of water crop up in the road; again these slow you down if you hit them.

It may seem impossible to steer between the edge of the road and the puddles, but Jaguar's very fine control let's you master it after a lap or two. I find it's slightly easier to stay on the right-hand side through the marshes, but you may find the left more forgiving.

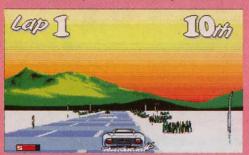
It may seem impossible to finish the race in first place, but the most important factor is how fast you start. Get off to a flyer and you can cruise up to fifth, no trouble.

Right at the end of the course these three bridges deceive you into steering hard right when you should steer gradua left. It's no big deal really - hitting the bridge is tricky.

Jaguar Racers Core Design PAL/NTSC



Beware of getting too close to the fences. If you hit them, they don't slow you down much but they do knock you all over the track, increasing the chances of hitting other cars.



The Marsh section is tricky and requires maximum concentration. Don't steer in the middle of the road, because the puddles will slow you down.



FORTHCOMING FEATURES

As seen, there's a lot missing from the demo. The final finished game (due out in May, although that's probably a bit optimistic) will feature 36 race tracks, in 12 different countries. If you pile your Jaguar too often, then you have to pay for repairs - which may limit where you can race, because it costs to travel to different countries. An added management element.

The most important playability feature to be added is the two-player option. This will split the screen across the middle and let two people race simultaneously. A system used in many, many racing games, purely because it works and gives a really competitive feel to the game.

The novel idea that Core are confident of squeezing in is a track designer. Rather than the usual 'Scalextric' style of adding together preset curves, bends and straights. Core Design are planning on a more fluid design. So you will be able to tailor the curves from slight bends to full 180 degree hairpins - as well as controlling the hills and dips. Should be good.

SENSIBLE SOCCER

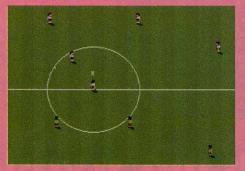
Sensible Software PAL only

Again, this is only a demo. Sensible Software have been around for years, cutting their teeth on early classics like Wizball and more recently producing the quite excellent Mega-Lo-Mania. They have now decided to pay homage to the greatest footie game available - Dino Dini's Kick Off.

Similarly to Jaguar Racing, Sensible Soccer is still in the early stages, but enough work has been done to let you have a game against a friend, or a quick practice to get the hang of the controls. Either will end when a goal is scored, and the menu will reappear after a few seconds.

Sensible Soccer is played entirely with joysticks a mouse will let you kick the ball, but you can't control the players. To start the game, move the joystick up or down to select practice or a twoplayer game, and then press fire.

Control really is very easy. The player you are controlling at any one time is marked by his number - push the joystick to make him move in a



Starting off from the centre spot is very easy — turn to a player and pass to start the game. Don't wait for the ref to blow his whistle, because there isn't one!

given direction. When he's got the ball, simply tap the fire-button to shoot or pass in the direction that he's facing.

Only a couple more points. First, be careful when the goalie has the ball - it's all to easy to acciden-



All goals scored will result in a replay of the last few seconds - invaluable when seeing who was the hero and who was the villain.

tally throw it into the back of your own net! And also don't be put off by any minor bugs that appear (such as the ball sticking to a goal post or similar). Sensible Software did want to do a new demo to get rid of these, but our disk deadlines would not allow for this. Sorry.



Using Your Coverdisk

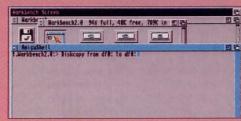
- 1. Always write-protect your disk. Move the tab so a hole is showing.
- 2. Copy the Coverdisk and use the copy, not the original. This may sound like a complicated task, suitable only for techno buffs, but it's surprisingly simple to do, just follow the simple instructions for copying the disk which are given below.
- 3. Read the instructions when using the programs.

up your Disk Backing

There are two ways of making a copy of your disk, and this is the easy one. Don't be daunted by the fact that you need to use the Shell or CLI: it's actually a lot easier than you might think. Just follow these simple steps...



1 Load your Workbench disk. Open the disk, find the icon that says Shell or CLI and double-click on it.



2 When the Shell window appears and the drive light is out, type in:

Diskcopy from DFO: to DFO: and press the Return key.



3. The Amiga will now ask you to insert the 'source' disk. It means the disk you want to copy, so put the Coverdisk in the drive and press the Return key.



4. Wait for a while and it will read all the information off the Coverdisk, telling you how far it has got. Then it will ask you to insert the "Destination" disk. Put the disk you want to copy your Coverdisk onto in the drive and press the Return key. Note that the disk does not need to be formatted already.



5. Put the source disk and destination disk in a couple more times when the Amiga asks for them. When it says "Diskcopy Finished" just type in:

to get out of the Shell or CLI. You may have to put the Workbench disk in again. Now your copy is ready!

DISK PROBLEMS?

If you have a problem with the disk - and you're sure the disk is in full working order - then you may need a little help. If you ring us on any Tuesday, and ask to speak to Pat McDonald, he will do his best to help you. Please understand, giving this sort of advice is time-consuming and we are very busy people, so only call if you really have to and do be considerate if we can't talk to you just then. If the problem is particularly complex it is better to send it to us in written detail. It will then be dealt with in the Workbench pages of the magazine.

BE CAREFUL!

We have done our best to check that the programs on the Amiga Format Coverdisk are simple to use and have no known viruses. We cannot usually answer complex telephone queries on the software (see the Disk Problems? box) and we do not accept liability for any consequences of using the numerous programs that are on the disk.

COPYRIGHT

Unless it is specifically stated, the programs on the Coverdisk are not in the Public Domain and the copyright remains with the author of the program.

Because some of the programs on the Coverdisk are not PD, selling or distributing them without the author's specific permission is against the laws of copyright.

We duplicate over 440,000 disks every month. Out of all those, obviously a few will be faulty. If the disk or any of the programs will not load or run properly, there may be a problem. Don't panic!

First try using the DiskDoctor utility on your Workbench disk to rescue it before sending it off for a replacement. In-full details of DiskDoctor can be found in the user's manual that came with your machine.

However, if your Coverdisk is faulty, you should send it back INCLUD-ING AN SAE for a free replacement within a month of the cover date to:

Amiga Format May Disk Disk Copy Labs Unit A, Westmarch **London Road** Daventry **Northants NN11 4SA**

Remember to include that stamped, addressed envelope!

MILLENNIUM PUTS THE WORLD IN YOUR HANDS



GLOBAL EFFECT



Build power sources to supply and expand your cities



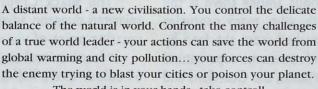
Survey for natural resources and seismic stability.



Build military bases for offensive



Plant forests and parklands to counter world pollution.



The world is in your hands - take control!



Check for pollution, CO2 and



Constantly monitor the state of your planet.

*Amiga screen shots © Millennium 1992







The "Black Crypt" ™ positively oozes with twenty five of the most hideous and despicably cunning monsters.

They await you in a dozen plague-ridden interconnecting dungeons, on 20 spell binding levels.

The most heinous among them is the Dark Lord Estoroth, who, many centuries ago, had been banished from the land by four Guardians with awesome supernatural powers. In the process, the Guardians and their weaponry had been lost.

Now Estoroth is back, seeking a ghastly

revenge against a defenceless people.

Your task is to lead an intrepid band of adventurers to retrieve the mystical artifacts that may hold the power of the four Guardians and provide your only chance of saving the world from evil.

The "Black Crypt" is the most electrifying fully animated dungeon adventure, with exceptionally detailed rotating point-of-view perspective.

It features real-time combat and spell-casting, all in 64 colour extra half-brite Amiga graphics.

But be warned, you enter this breeding ground of evil at your own peril. And hopefully not on a full stomach.

EL CTR NIC ARTS



Getting to grips with PageSetter

A 500 Plus Compatible • 1 Mb recommended

This month The Amiga Format Collection brings you the original Amiga desktop publishing package. Despite its age, Gold Disk's venerable PageSetter remains the definitive entry-level DTP program.

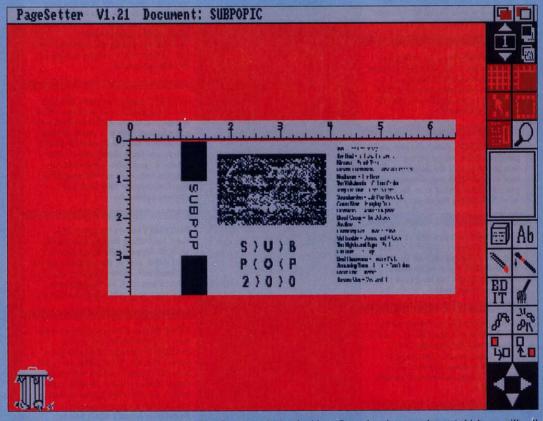
Marcus Dyson takes a look at how to put your ideas into practice, and onto paper.

SO WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT, this desktop publishing lark? I mean, it sounds very grand doesn't it, but that's mainly to do with the use of the word 'publishing', which conjures up images of editors, staff writers and designers, like here in the **Amiga Format** offices doesn't it? But it's more about being able to produce printouts on your Amiga that include both text and pictures, and that look good.

What you use them for precisely is down to you, it could be for inlay cards for your cassette collection, to produce a news letter for your local rugby club, or even a fanzine. You could, of course, probably make items like these using other methods, but it would surely involve lots of cutting out and sticking down. So why not save yourself the bother, and let your Amiga do all the hard work.

PageSetter, in its original form was the first DTP program for the Amiga. Most of the improvements that have been made to DTP programs in recent years have been to do with their ability to output to better – and much more expensive – printers, or to use outline fonts, which are good, but again cost extra. If you are using a standard Amiga system, with Amiga fonts and a dot-matrix printer, PageSetter will do all the basic things you could want from a DTP program, and it's all yours for the price of a disk, courtesy of The Amiga Format Collection. If you don't have a printer, you can save your work on disk and take it to a friend's house to get it printed.

PageSetter does have a couple of limitations, and we might as well get them out of the way. Firstly it's mono only, no colour whatsoever, and that's really the only area in which it can be a bit of a let down. Secondly, there is no way to put text at an angle, not even 90 degrees or upside down; all your text has to be perfectly horizontal. Nowadays designers put text at all sorts of angles, to create interesting pages, but text at 90 degrees is almost essential for things like titles on spines or page numbers like the ones in **Amiga Format**. There is however a way to do this if you're prepared to do a little extra work, if you turn to the box on Page 13 all will be revealed.



Working in PageSetter, your document is on the pasteboard in front of you and the Toolbox is easily accessible at the right-hand side of the screen. Documents made up of your designs, from your own printer are merely moments away.

On the plus side, *PageSetter* can be used with any Amiga (Bitmap) font, and these are widely available in the Public Domain. It also prints to any preferences printer, so if you are already printing with your Amiga, you should have no problem printing from *PageSetter*.

Like the Workbench itself PageSetter uses a desktop analogy; you can see your document laying in front of you, and within easy reach of your right hand you will find a toolbox full of most of the things you will need to create your page. PageSetter also has its own Text Editor and Graphics Editor, which are referred to as Departments. It's fairly obvious what each does from its name, but it's important to learn how to use them since they are the main routes for getting words and pictures onto your page.

Once the picture and text (which we will call page elements) are in your document, it's just a matter of getting them in the positions where they look their best. Boxes can be clicked on and dragged, and sent to the front or back, just like windows on Workbench.

It is important to back up your *PageSetter* disk, following the instructions on Page 8. Otherwise, unless you are using a hard drive, *PageSetter* can read to and write from the program disk, whilst it is running.

GETTING STARTED

Put the *PageSetter* disk in your drive when you start your machine. It will boot to its own Workbench; double click on the program icon and you're away. The icon 'click me' runs quite a good help file, try it if you get stuck.

The PageSetter Toolbox

PAGE SELECTION GADGET

Clicking on the up or down arrow moves your document to the next, or previous page. The number displayed in the box is the number of the currently visible page. Only one page may be viewed at a time.

GRID

This item extends a projection of the ruler markings across the document page to form a graph paper like grid. This grid helps with the accurate lining up of page elements with one another. It also helps to read off ruler markings accurately.

SNAP TO GRID

Makes boxes all-position dependent operations, like moving or creating a box, align with the nearest intersection of grid lines, whether the grid is displayed or not. Useful for accurate alignment of boxes.

BOX OUTLINE Turns the outlines of the boxes on or off. It is best to have them turned on whilst laying out your page, and turn them off when you want to get an idea of what the printout will look like.

PAGE POSITION shows the size and position of the current screen in relation to the rest of the document. The size changes with magnification, and you can move around your document by click-dragging the rectangle.

CREATE BOX lets you make a new box ready to have text or a picture placed in it. Simply click on the gadget, then click and drag on your document. Boxes can be moved once they have been made.

WRITE pastes the text in the buffer into the box you next click on, text is automatically cut from the Text Editor when you quit that department. If you don't click on a box PageSetter will automatically create one for you.

EDIT takes you and the contents of the current box into the relevant Editor department, depending on whether it is text or a graphic.

LINK and UNLINK connects boxes to (or disconnects them from) a text 'chain'. This means if there is too much text for one box it will 'flow' into the next one, similar to the columns in a magazine.

GRAPHIC ADJUST allows you to position a graphic element within its box. Pressing any of the arrows will move the graphic one pixel in the desired direction. Clicking on the centre will return the picture to the position it was originally imported to.

BOX TO FRONT and BOX TO BACK

These tools work on the currently selected box to move it either in front, or behind all the other boxes on a page. Sensible layering of boxes can enable effects to be obtained that are not otherwise possible, the partial obscuring of a graphic object for instance, or double bordering of a text or picture box.

RULERS

This gadget toggles between rulers on and rulers off. The rules appear along the top and down the left of your work area and are very useful for the accurate positioning of page elements. Due to the program's American origins, the rules are in inches or 'picas' — a typographic measure equal to one sixth of an inch.

MARGIN

When you create a new page, you are given the opportunity to define margins from each side, this tool shows a dotted line which gives an indication of where your margin area is. This will not display the text inset of a box, though this is called a margin in the edit box panel.

MAGNIFY toggles between three levels of magnification of the page. None allows you to see all the document, to get a look at how it is going. Medium is useful to work in because it allows you to see some detail whilst maintaining a reasonable amount of the document to work on. Full magnification is mainly for fine work and aligning boxes etc.

QUICKTEXT allows the entry of a short text string directly into a box, without the necessity to go into the Text Editor part of the program, useful for headlines, picture captions etc. Just select a box, click on the quicktext icon, type your text and press Return.

PAINT defines a selected box as a picture box, and pastes the picture currently in memory into it. To get a picture into the Paste buffer you must enter the Graphics Editor and cut the image. Once pasted it remains in the buffer, so more than one of an image can be pasted into a document.

PageSetter doesn't allow you to resize a graphic image on the page, it must be done in the Graphics Editor.

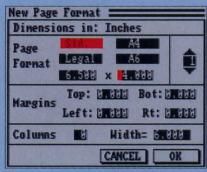
MOP clears a box of any of its contents, so it is effectively a delete, but the box remains intact. Before trashing the box's contents PageSetter asks for confirmation to prevent you accidentally destroying anything you didn't mean to.

NEXT BOX and PREVIOUS BOX move you through a chain of linked text boxes. When several text boxes have been linked together in a larger document it makes the 'proof-reading' stage much easier because it automatically moves the screen position to display the relevant area of the document. This avoids having to search around for the next text box, which is useful in documents with multiple pages.

NOW LET'S MAKE A PAGE

SO LET'S GIVE this thing a go shall we? If you follow the next few paragraphs you will learn how to put together a simple document with *PageSetter*. Let's make an inlay card for a cassette tape. I'll do one for the excellent SubPop200 CD, you can do one for anything you like. let's state right here and now that we in no way condone copyright infringement of any kind. If you want a record, go out and buy it! And that goes for computer software too.

The first thing that we do once we have loaded *PageSetter* is create a new page. To do this simply go to the CREATE option on the PAGE menu and release your right mouse button, you will be presented with a requester like the one below:



The new page requester let's you put in vital data about your document right at the start.

Below the preset page-size options are the boxes to type in the size for a custom page, we need to type in 6.5 x 4 inches. On the right is a small box that controls how many pages are in your document, we only need one, but pressing the up arrow would increase the number and the down arrow would decrease it. Below is the box to define the page margins, this document doesn't need any, but some of your documents may. Below the margin entry box is one for columns, you just type in how many you want, and what size, and *PageSetter* will space them across your page automatically.

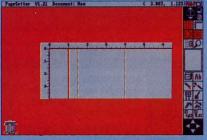
Once you have defined the size of your page, plus any margins and columns, click on OK. Now you can see your blank page, it should look something like this:



A blank grid will always look roughly like this, the size and shape will vary depending on what you want exactly.

Now we need to put some boxes on the page, ready to take our text and pictures. We need one box that is 1"x4", another that is 0.5"x4" and two that are 2.5"x4", if you click on the grid tool and set the grid size to 1/2" it will make it far easier to draw them the correct size. Try going to the ART BOARD menu and

Now your page should look like this:



Every page element, whether it's text or graphics must go in a box, so it is important to start by putting some boxes on the page.

Now we have some boxes, we can concentrate on what we are going to put in them. Since this is a cassette insert, we need to put something on the spine to say what's on the cassette; a title of sorts. If you refer to the box at the bottom right you will see how I made a font to use on the spine. Now click on the second box, the one which is 0.5"x4", and then click on the quicktext icon; a requester box will appear.



Short one line strings of text can be easily entered without having to go into the Text Editor.

Into this box you can type the string of text you want to place in your box, but it cannot have any returns in it, because pressing Return activates the OK gadget on the requester and this will put the text you have typed so far onto your document. Type your title (mine is SUBPOP) in now, then click OK. Your title will now appear on the spine in the default face, whichever font is at the top of your fonts list. If you now go to the BOX menu and select the current option you will be presented with the following requester:



The current box requester allows you to edit many attributes of the currently selected box. The text in the box can be changed, along with its size and spacing. You can put a border on the box and change its background colour.

If you click on the line containing the word topaz you will be presented with a font menu, scrolling through with the arrows on the right-hand side lets you select your desired font. We need to select our custom font which I have called Sideways. Whenever a font reaches the selection line (when it's highlighted) a small

Continued overleaf

The Graphics Editor

The Graphics Editor is basically a little two colour (black-and-white) paint program, and as such will be fairly easy for you to get to grips with. The menu bar allows you to load and save picture files, as well as resize and flip clips from the current picture. Colour IFFs loaded from a paint package will be automatically dithered to produce a crude shading effect, but the real intention is for the Graphics Editor to be used for line drawings like the clip art included on your program disk. Load some of the clip art up and take a look.

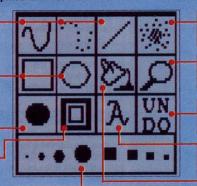
Here's a (very) brief look at the Graphics Editor toolbox:

LINE DRAWING TOOLS: you can draw continuous, non-continuous or straight lines.

RECTANGLE AND ELLIPSE: cannot be constrained to circle/square.

COLOUR: either black or white.

FRAME: very important this one; defines the area to be flipped, resized etc. Also controls which area is clipped to the pasteboard to be carried to your document.



BRUSH MENU: allows you to choose your brush size and shape.

SPRAY CAN: produces an airbrush type effect.

MAGNIFIER: creates a small moveable magnification window.

UNDO: undoes the last change to the current image.

TEXT: allows a text string to be added to the picture.

PAINT BUCKET: flood fills an area with the current colour.

The Text Editor

The text editor (TE) is a fairly well featured word processor that is geared primarily towards preparing text for on-screen formatting in a DTP program. You can either import text into the TE from a file saved by your word processor, or write documents directly in the TE. If you are importing files with embedded control codes, these may not convert, and could appear as text in your document.

The TE actually supports the file formats of:

Scribble!

TextCraft

TextCraft Plus

Kindword:

WordPerfect

but we found that *ProText 5* files imported as 'Generic' did not give us a problem.

Once you have imported or entered your text you can

move around it using the cursor keys (try using them in combination with the shift and control keys for enhanced effects) and the mouse.

Highlighting a block of text allows you to perform the operations in the block menu (Cut, Copy, Paste) on it to rearrange the order of your text.

Inserting the following commands in the text will produce these effects:

\b bold text \i italics

\u underline \r reverse

all these commands are toggles, so once turns them on and the next time turns them off. All effects are turned off by '\n' which sets the text back to normal.

Once you are happy with your text file, quit the Text Editor and all the text in your current text file will be placed into the paste buffer ready to be pasted into your page using the write tool.

Text at Ninety Degrees

Being able to put text at an angle, especially 90 degrees, can be very useful, eg for putting titles on the spines of book jackets, record sleeves or even something like a cassette inlay card. *PageSetter* can't do this, but with a little ingenuity, *you* can!

Your Amiga comes complete with a little utility program called Fed, which stands for Font Editor. Using Fed you can edit Amiga fonts, or even create new ones from scratch. You may not have used this program very much, or even at all, but now you have PageSetter it's time to get it out and dust it down, because it will become indispensible to anyone who intends to use PageSetter more than a few times.

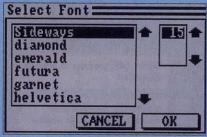
The secret to the 90 degrees text is to create yourself a new font, but rotate each letter through 90 degrees. So that when the font is used in *PageSetter* it can be read downwards, like a book spine. Then when you enter the text, put a return after each letter (yes this is fiddly, but you should only be using it for short amounts of text) and *voilà*! text reading downwards.

Fed is pretty easy to use, and you can find the full instructions in your Amiga manuals. But remember

that you will need to save the sideways font in the sane Fonts directory that your *PageSetter* program is using. The *PageSetter* program disk is quite full, so you might want to copy some of the Clip Art files onto another disk, then delete them from the *PageSetter* disk to create room for more fonts.



If you want to use text at a 90 degrees angle, or if you get bored with the few fonts that come with *PageSetter* (and they aren't very good), Fed can come to the rescue. menu at the top right will show you all the sizes that the selected font is available in. Unlike many DTP packages, *PageSetter* can't resize text, so if you don't have a particular font (a certain typeface at a certain size), you will need to obtain or make a suitable one.



This requester, obtained through the Current Box edit option, allows you to choose which font you want to use.

Once the text is in the Sideways font, click on OK and your title will appear in the part of your document that will be the cassette spine. But as you can see it is not running down the spine the way we want it too. So while the spine box is selected click on the edit gadget in the main toolbox, this will take you into the Text Editor - where you can put a return between each letter. When you exit the text editor, your title will read correctly down the spine of your cassette. If you now use the CURRENT selection from the box menu, you will be able to change the position and justification of the type so that it is in the middle of the spine. Refer to the box above right if you have any difficulties with this.

It's now time to enter the main bit of our text, the track listing. Go to the department menu, and select Text Editor, this will take you into the word processor part of the program, and present you with an empty screen. Now all you have to do is type in the list of tracks on your cassette.



The text editor is where you enter most of your text for use in PageSetter.

The 'b' before the name of the group puts the text into bold, the '\n' reverts it back to normal. When you exit the text editor the text is automatically copied to the paste buffer, so once back in the document, simply click on the write tool, then on the right-hand box, and your text will be written into that box.

Again edit the box so that the text has an inset from the edges and check it is aligned as you want it. Now if you zoom in to take a closer look at your document you should see something that looks like this:

Editing the Current Box

Since every element of a page in *PageSetter* has to be placed in a box, they are very important to the overall look of your finished page. For this reason the 'Current Box' window is one you will, in time, become very familiar with. At first, though, it can be a little confusing, so let's try to make it a bit easier to understand:

BOX TRANSPARENCY: if a box is transparent, the contents of other boxes below it are visible, even when they overlap.

'drop shadow' for the box.

TEXT ALIGNMENT: left, right, centred or justified text can be selected. The icons are self

explanatory.

BOX SHADOW: toggles a

BOX MARGINS define how far from the sides of a box the text will appear. This is very important if the box has a border.

LEADING controls the space between lines of text. If the figure is '0' the text will be set 'solid', with no space. Current Box None Top Margin Left Margin Leading L futuma Tracking: char KE word HE CANCEL OK FONT: clicking on **TRACKING** controls this line allows you how much space is placed between let-

ters and words

iustified.

when lines are being

FONT: clicking on this line allows you to choose your typeface and size from those installed in your system. BOX BORDER: squares and rectangles can be drawn on the page in a number of different border styles.

BOX BACKGROUND can be set between 10 different shades of black and white. By using this it is possible to create typographic elements such as solid blocks of shade, or underlines for headlines.

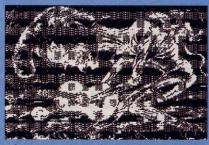
BORDER POSITION: controls whereabouts on a box the borders will appear. It is pos sible to create 'column rules' or 'paragraph rules' using this function.



Using the magnify icon lets you get a better look at your document.

Now we have most of our text sorted, but we need a title on the front of the sleeve. You should know the routine by now. Go into the Text Editor, type in the text, exit the Text Editor, write the text into the relevant box.

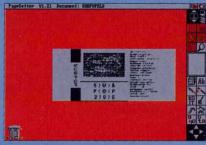
Once you have all your words where you want them, it's time to start thinking about pictures. *PageSetter* can read any IFF, and will dither colour images into shades, but this effect is far from ideal, take a look at this IFF which we imported from *DPaint*...



Colour pictures imported into the Graphics Editor leave a little to be desired.

Line drawings, however, work quite well, and the clip art on the disk will give you an idea of what types of image are best suited for use in PageSetter. To get your image from the Graphics Editor into the document, you must frame it (see the Graphics Editor box on page 13) then clip it. Once you exit the Graphics Editor you use the paint tool to put your picture into a box.

Now your document should be almost complete, you can apply finishing touches like we have on the spine by simply drawing a box and editing it so that the background is black:



Once you have completed your document it's time to print it out.

So your document is complete. Before you print it you must select the correct printer driver from the preferences on the disk, just like on your Workbench disk. Now enter the Press Department from the menn bar, and follow the on-screen prompts, which will help you get a print-out of your document.

With enough practice you will soon be able to produce some far more sophisticated documents than the one that we just did. But if you find that you like the idea of DTP, yet can't get PageSetter to do precisely what you need, remember that it is a very basic program, and this magazine is done on a more advanced DTP package. If you need a more capable package why not check out Gold Disk's Professional Page; for the review turn straight to Page 118.

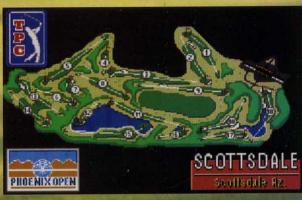
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course previews, hints from the pros, TV-style coverage and realistic crowd reactions that reflect your best shots.... and biggest duffs.

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Amiga £14.99 IBM/PC £14.99

EL CTRONIC ARTS

NUR GOLF



The A600. A brave new move, or is it just a Sega and Nintendo beater?

THE NEW AMIGA, labelled the 600, is the logical successor to the A500 for gamesplayers. Briefly, it's like a cut-down A500 with the edge connector replaced by a slot for credit-card sized ROM cards and it features a built-in TV modulator.

The first chance to see the new machine will be when it is officially launched to the public at the Amiga Shopper Show, Wembley, next month (see Page 20 for full details). It will go on sale in May. However, it was first shown to a select group of UK developers behind closed doors in early March, and it was seen at the German CeBit show later last month and has already been launched officially in other European countries.

While rumour and speculation have been rife about the new machine for some time, Amiga Format has full details of the Amiga 600 from an official Commodore source. The only thing that remains to be seen is not the hardware specification of the machine, but what Commodore UK will do with it in the way of putting together a bundle to follow the highly successful A500 Cartoon Classics pack.

Pricing, however, is already confirmed. An article in computer industry magazine Computer Trade Weekly reports that the Amiga 600 will sell for £399 (same base price as the Cartoon Classics) which will no doubt be a bundle price with software included. Perhaps more interestingly still, there will also be a

version available with an internal 20Mb hard disk included, which CTW reports will sell for £499.

NEW LOOK

The Amiga 600 is actually quite a radical redesign. While the case styling remains pretty similar, the removal of the numeric keypad means that the keyboard itself is reduced in length considerably

New technology is reflected by a decrease in the overall size of the motherboard inside the machine. The cut-down Amiga 600 is just 36cm wide and 24cm deep, and it seems likely that Commodore will encourage users to see the benefits of the new machine's 'semi-portability'

The main styling difference is that when you look from the side, the machine has a wedge-shaped profile, taller at the back and lower at the front. This has no doubt allowed a small, but significant, increase in the capacity for internal expansion, giving room for the built-in TV modulator, the ROM card socket and the possibility of an internal hard drive.

The joystick ports have been moved to the righthand side of the machine, as the illustration shows, alongside the disk drive. Anyone who has ever scrabbled around to plug in a joystick or mouse will no doubt appreciate the sense in this.

Apart from lacking the joystick ports, the back of the machine remains pretty much unchanged, with

serial and parallel ports, disk drive port, stereo sound phono plugs, RGB monitor connector and power socket as before. The big difference is the addition of dual plugs for a fullcolour composite video output, and a plug for an RF signal (ordinary stuff for your TV or video) from the internal TV modulator.

WHAT'S INSIDE

The very latest version of the operating system, Workbench 2.05, will be provided on disk and a Workbench 2 512K ROM chip is fitted in the machine. The main processor is an ordinary 68000 running at the standard Amiga clock speed of 7.14MHz, confounding rumours that a new, faster processor may be included.

The new Amiga also shares the same Denise chip as the A500 Plus (serial number 8373), so it will have access to the new Enhanced Chip Set screen modes, and the same "super-fat" Agnus chip (serial number 8375), which means that all RAM up to 2Mb will be Chip memory. Chip RAM is directly accessible by the custom chips without consulting the main CPU and is needed for advanced animation and sound effects.

Although it is possible to mount just 512K of RAM, it is believed that the standard base model in the UK will be a 1Mb machine. This can be expanded to 2Mb with the addition of an A601 1Mb expansion card. The one major limitation with the new machine appears to be that that's where it ends: 2Mb of memory will be the maximum expansion.

BIG CHANGES

The reason for the limit on memory expansion is apparent when you look at the major new features of this new machine. The action centres around the lefthand side of the Amiga 600.

The edge connector, under its flip-up cover, has gone. It is replaced by a smaller IDE connector hidden inside the machine: sufficient to attach an internal hard drive, but not for an awful lot else.

The IDE connector is an unusual step, but if you grant the assumption that the only need for an edge connector is for a hard drive, it makes sense. The majority of hard drive units available in mass and cheaply on the market nowadays are, indeed, miniature IDE units as manufactured for use in portable PCs.

MAY 199



for launch!

The brand-new gamesplayer's Amiga will go on sale in May and includes at least two exciting new features. Damien Noonan is first with the news...

Plenty of third-party Amiga hardware developers have been thinking of incorporating these tiny, economical units into their drives, and it makes absolute sense for Commodore to do so. On the down side, however, it severely limits the Amiga's expandability, putting that 2Mb cap on RAM expansion.

Perhaps more importantly, it means that the Amiga 600 will not be compatible with the soon-to-be-released A570 Amiga CD-ROM drive. This splits the A500/A600 market cleanly down the middle and suggests that Commodore will continue to make and sell the A500 Plus. It also makes it completely apparent why the A570 was renamed with a 500-series tag (it was originally to be called the A690).

NEW VENTURE

Perhaps the biggest development yet for the Amiga is a brave step into the world of console games. Replacing the edge connector on the left-hand side of the Amiga 600 is a brand-new slot with a brand-new purpose: a connector into which ROM cards will plug.

ROM cards are small plastic cards which contain a ROM chip with software "hard-wired" onto it: they are very similar in concept to the cartridges on which console games come. The card interface uses a standard format already developed for use elsewhere (known as PCMCIA/IEDA – don't ask what it means!) and are in use on PC-compatibles, where cards are in use containing anything from 16K to 4Mb of data.

ROM cards are now a realistic price to manufacture and have the advantage of being almost impossible to pirate. It's possible that software could be provided entirely on card, or equally possible that a card could be used as a 'lock' for software. Either way, home copying could become a thing of the past, which software developers would relish.

A final change to the hardware specifications of the machine is that the Gary chip, which handles input devices, is now replaced by a new chip called Gayle to account for the new ROM card input device.

SO WHAT?

Clearly the Amiga can't stand still in a competitive, technologyled market: but is this new Amiga a step in the right direction? Well, it certainly seems that way.

Given the fact that the A500 was never really the home games machine it pretended to be, it makes sense. An Amiga, still a 'real' computer, is going to retain its appeal and the limit of expansion to 2Mb plus an internal hard drive is not going to be an enormous problem. To the average Cartoon Classics buyer, it might as well be the same machine.

The major problem for the consumer is going to be choosing whether or not to go for a CD-compatible machine. If the A600 is to take over as the standard entry-level gamesplayer's machine, it seems Commodore's crusade to get CD-ROM accepted is going to suffer. Buying the standard entry-level Amiga and being able to choose later is one thing: deciding at the time whether you are later going to spend £300 on CD hardware and deciding accordingly is a whole different thing.

But above all, the main importance of the new Amiga is to software developers. Software houses are making pots of money out of developing games on cartridge for the games consoles, simply because they know that most people who have a copy of the game will have paid the full price for it, not copied it off a mate. If they got such a whim into their heads, these people could kill off the Amiga at a stroke, simply by ceasing to develop games for it.

The new Amiga 600 is no great step forward for the Amiga. But it could be the move that assures its survival: and that has to be a good thing for all of us.

THE AMIGA 600 AND COMPATIBILITY

When the A500 Plus was launched, there was a maelstrom of problems with software and hardware not working on the new machine. Will this happen again? Well, here's what problems you can expect to encounter...

HARDWARE

WILL WORK: monitors, printers, samplers, digitisers, disk drives, modems, joysticks, mice and anything else that plugs in to the ports and sockets at the back of the machine. There's no change here at all

WON'T WORK: since there is no longer an expansion connector on the side of the machine, nothing that plugs into that will work: hard drives and RAM expansions being the most notable victims. Also, it seems likely that with the new motherboard and size, the trapdoor expansion slot will be different, so current A500 memory cards, PC Emulators and the like will not work. Also faster processors are likely to be completely out of the window.

PROGNOSIS: as well as the official Commodore 20 Mb internal drive, it seems likely that other third-party manufactures will produce larger configurations of hard drive, up to 105 Mb. Fitting these yourself will invalidate your warranty: power supply could be a problem. No doubt third party firms will also produce alternatives to the official A601 RAM expansion. Possibly new versions of PC emulator cards will emerge, but this is less likely.



WILL WORK: anything that runs on a 500 Plus and doesn't make use of the numeric keypad.

WON'T WORK: since there is no numeric keypad, anything that wants to use it is going to hit problems. Flight sims, with their heavy use of the keyboard, are particularly likely to be affected along with any serious software. Most serious software should still be runnable: Deluxe Paint, for instance, has different keyboard shortcuts for the keyboard's number keys and those on the numeric keypad, but otherwise we would expect it to run unaffected. Also, anything that won't work on a 500 Plus because it is incompatible with Workbench 2 or because it doesn't work in Chip RAM will also not work on the Amiga 600.



Hard drives, like this Roctec model, will not be able to be used with the A600...



...instead there will be a move to internal expansions like this Novia hard drive.



Most games software should run OK on the 600, but *MiG* 29 uses the numeric keypad so there will be problems.

PROGNOSIS: Commodore are going to have to be very careful to ensure A600-compatibility of key serious products like *Deluxe Paint*, or the A600 would just be an expensive games console. Games currently in development may have to be tweaked and new ones should take account of the lost keypad. Apart from that, the 500 Plus should have already have fought all the battles.



Amiga Shopper Show will see A600, A570 launch

The big Amiga show this spring looks set to be a god one for all kinds of Amiga owners as the line-up gets better and better, Gary Lord reveals.

This Spring's only Amiga-only show is looking more and more like the top event of the year, with the public launch of both the Amiga 600 and the A570 Amiga CD-ROM drive, as well as an enormous number of other exciting events lined up.

Commodore are the second largest exhibitor and will be demonstrating both their new products to the public at the show for the first time anywhere in the UK. The largest exhibitor will be Future Publishing, the company behind Amiga Format and sister magazines Amiga Shopper and Amiga Power: all three magazines will be on hand to contribute to the event.

constantly from a strong base, and now includes many of the most important Amiga hardware and software developers around today. We've just heard, for example, that major American software producers Oxxi-Aegis will be joining the starting lineup. Beyond that, however, there are also going to be all sorts of events lined up, ranging from lectures on the use of specific programs to games competitions and a chance to explore the latest Virtual Reality entertainment systems.

The Amiga Shopper Show is the only Amigadedicated show this spring and takes place at Wembley Exhibition Centre on Thursday-Sunday May 15-17. Here's just a brief run-through of the sights you can expect to see there ...



The line-up of exhibitors is growing The Amiga Shopper is where it's all going to be happening: exciting launches, big new serious products and a games arcade!

It now looks almost cer-

tain that the A570

CD-ROM drive for the

Amiga 500 will go on

sale in May and will

cost £269. Although

Commodore were hop-

ing to push the price as

near to £200 as possible,

Printer manufacturer Citizen, who have committed themselves to the Amiga in a big way with the launch of a new printer driver, will be joining established top names in Amiga hardware such as Supra from the States, Gasteiner in from Germany, and UK hardware specialists like Ashcom, Cortex and WTS. It is expected that Americans GVP will be showing a whole new range of more-power-for-the price hard drives in new, larger sizes, while Bitcon will be demonstrating the new versions of their Power PC emulator card.

Power Computing will have a new range of hardware on display, Golden Image and Progressive Peripherals will be showing off their goodies, while Scottish digitiser masters Rombo will be parading their new Take 2 animation system (reviewed last issue). Checkmate Digital will be able to show you their A500-recase Tower system in its full glory, as well as their high-value True Colour cards. UK serious software producers HiSoft and Digita will be making an ever-popular appearance along with a massive attack from music distributors Zone.

FUN OF THE FAIR

The Amiga Power Games Arcade will feature the latest games from top software houses like US Gold, Virgin, MicroProse, Psygnosis, Ocean and Electronic Arts. free to play. You'll also be able to win prizes for high scores as well as taking on the programmers who created the games and the reviewers who play them for a living on the magazines. There's a challenge: beat them and they'll look pretty silly!

Pushing the bounds of entertainment back even further, you'll be able to take a trip in the Super X simulator or explore the wild world of Virtual Reality on one of two of the newest VR systems in existence.

The more seriously inclined might wish to venture to the theatre, where there will be sessions from top experts giving advice on Deluxe Paint and AMOS. The theatre will also be the centre for debates with top industry figures as well as question-and-answer seminars featuring the Amiga Shopper team and the editors of the Amiga magazines.

In a more informal environment, the members of various magazine teams will be taking questions on the Future Publishing stand, so look out for the details of the events on the day.

BE THERE!

Remembering the fun we had at the World of Commodore Show last year, this is an event not to be missed and we look forward to seeing you! It's May 15-17 at the Wembley Exhibition Centre: admission on the day costs £6 for adults and £4 for children, but you can save a quid by buying a ticket in advance: see the ads in this magazine or phone 051-356 5085.

Price of CD-ROM drive set?



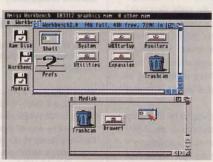
And finally a price is set for the A570. But with the release of the 600 are tricky times ahead?

the pricepoint would seem to be a pretty reasonable one unique product and, according to research which Commodore carried out with Amiga Format last year, would indicate a very good uptake from current Amiga owners.

Doubts have, however, been voiced about the future of the A570. It seems that to use the CDTV titles currently available, any Amiga paired with an A570 would have to be upgraded to 1Mb of Chip memory. One CD developer that we spoke to suggested that this had decimated the potential market at a stroke, even though it looks likely that Commodore will arrange to offer the complex hardware modification at a reasonable price through their dealers.

If the launch of the A600 means that the Amiga 500 Plus' days are numbered, that certainly suggests a tricky time ahead for the A570. One possible move would be for Commodore to come up with an Amiga 500/570 pack as an integral idea. On this topic, only time will tell...

Workbench 2 upgrade goes on sale



A500 owners will now be able to move up to the grey with the new look Workbench.

After several months of confusion, we have now had confirmation that the upgrade kit to convert your older Amiga to Workbench 2 is now available. Commodore have seemed reluctant to let this fact become common knowledge, though they would like to encourage users to upgrade via the official channels, by using an authorised Amiga

The upgrade kit consists of the Kickstart 2 ROM, the three Workbench 2.04 disks (Workbench, Extras and Fonts), the Workbench 2 manuals and

installation instructions. It costs £79.95 andcan be obtained from Silica, although the last we heard it was only available in small numbers and was already out of stock. The only tricky bit of fitting it involves removing the old ROM and replacing it with the new one, which does involve some care and will invalidate your warranty if it is still valid. You can have the upgrade made by official Commodore repair centre FMG, who will charge £20 for the job plus £7.50 for carriage.

What the upgrade kit might also have been expected to include would be the new Denise and Agnus chips, giving access to the new screen modes and 2Mb of Chip RAM respectively, but it doesn't. Some non-Plus A500s have a useable Agnus, but many don't.

All in all, with the cost of the upgrade coming in at a frankly rather high price, the decision on whether or not to upgrade has to be a pretty tricky one. While Workbench 2 is a much improved working environment for serious Amiga users, it doesn't really allow you to do anything you couldn't otherwise have done. Is it worth paying out all that money just for a

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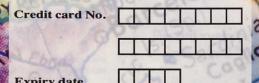
The PC880B, the only drive to introduce Blitz Amiga, the Power anti-click device and to combat viruses, is only available direct from Power, priced at just £69.95

We have noticed how pricey unintelligent drives are. Perhaps, it's your turn to tell people where to stick it.

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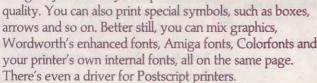
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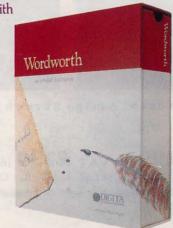
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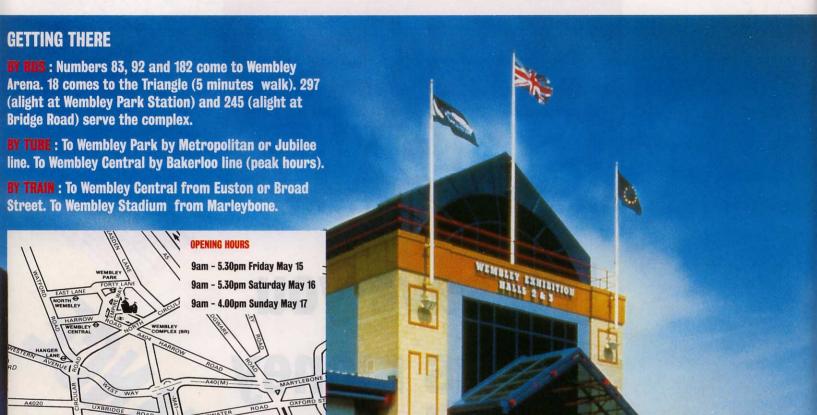
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NOTHER WILL the new Amiga!

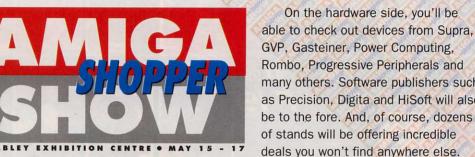
A brand new Amiga will be unveiled on May 15 at the Amiga Shopper Show - be there and you could be among the first to see it! Commodore has chosen the prestigious Amiga Shopper Show to launch the A600 "Amiga for the Nineties". And it'll be showing the the revolutionary A570 CD-ROM drive too.

As well as the new machines there will be an amazing amount to see and do at the show:

- Take part in seminars on topics from games programming to Deluxe Paint and AMOS to video, featuring feature some of Britain's top experts.
- The Amiga Shopper Panel will be there to answer your questions, so if you want our advice, be there!
- Explore a completely computer generated universe with Virtual Reality.
- The Amiga Shopper, Amiga Format and Amiga Power teams will be on hand to offer hear your opinions on the magazines.
- For games players prizes will be on offer in the Amiga Power Arcade. All you have to do is get the day's highest scores on the latest releases from from Electronic Arts,

Ocean, MicroProse, Psygnosis, US Gold, and Virgin.

It's a great day out for all Amiga owners, and that's before you even consider the what the 90 exhibitors from both sides of the Atlantic have to offer!



GVP, Gasteiner, Power Computing, Rombo, Progressive Peripherals and many others. Software publishers such as Precision, Digita and HiSoft will also be to the fore. And, of course, dozens of stands will be offering incredible deals you won't find anywhere else.

Exciting launches. Fascinating seminars. Thrilling games. Incredible bargains. The Amiga Shopper Show an event you can't afford to miss!

It's being held at the Wembley Exhibition Centre in London from Friday May 15 to Sunday May 17. If you move fast and use the form opposite you can guarantee your ticket, save more than a pound and have a full show guide posted to you before the event. But hurry!



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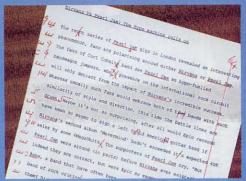
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How it used to be done (and, indeed, still is)



Before DTP, writers would use a typewriter to write their copy. Not only was this more legible, but it helped the page designer work out how much room the writing would take up on the finished page. Because letters on typewriters were equally spaced in those days, usually 10 or 12 per inch, it was easy to calculate how many letters there were in the whole piece of writing. Then by referring to special tables, the designer could 'cast off' the copy. This would tell him how many lines, of a certain length, would be needed to print the text at a certain size.

At this point the sub-editor would read through the copy correcting any spelling or grammatical errors. If he found any, he would mark them on the manuscript using a set of symbols which told the typesetter exactly what corrections to make.



The copy would then be typeset. Typesetting is the process of putting all the words into a column of lines, like the ones you are reading now; this was called putting text in galleys. Galley is the word that has its roots back in the days when type was set from molten metal into solid lines, that were then put together into a frame called a galley to make columns. Typesetting machines cost many thousands of pounds, so only the largest of publishing companies could afford to have their own. Most people would send their copy to specialist typesetting companies. Once the copy had been typeset it would be proof-read to make sure the typesetter had not made any mistakes. Then the text would be printed on a long piece of photographic paper called a bromide and returned to the designer.



Once the designer got all the words in their typeset form, he stuck them down onto a sheet of card to produce something called a mechanical. Working on a drawing board, and using a scalpel (to cut the galleys up into useable sized columns) and Spray Mount to paste them into place. Paste up, was a tedious job. The designer would leave a space where he wanted the pictures to go, and put a keyline around it using a Rotring pen.

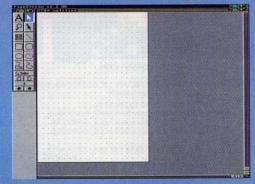
If the work was a regular layout (like a magazine), the designer may have had a grid sheet. This was a piece of card with feint blue lines on to show him the position of the columns, folio, and the edges of the page. The lines were blue because this colour wouldn't show up when the printer photographed the mechanical to make his printing plates.

Desktop Publishing What it is

After the DTP revolution (or what you can



Since the invention of DTP the writer has done part of the job of the typesetter and part of the job of the proof-reader. As almost everyone writes on a word processor these days, all the 'keying in' of text is already taken care of by the writer, who can then use the spelling checker feature to correct his own spelling mistakes. The finished text file can then be given on disk to the sub-editor, who can complete the job of proofreading. Since the file has been checked for spelling the sub can concentrate on the grammar and style, making the corrections to the data file. Since most DTP programs can import text files in most formats, all the sub editor then has to do is give the floppy disk to the designer.



The designer may have a grid or template for his page ready to use. But, if this is a special one-off job, or the first time he has created a page of this size he can simply get the DTP program to create a 'custom grid' by telling the program what size he wants the page to be.

A basic, or bare, grid will simply have the page size, crop marks (which show the printer where the page ends), and the empty columns. The designer begins laying out the page by importing the text into a text box, which he must first draw. At this point it is possible to put all the text into body text style by selecting all the text and using a 'style sheet'; this stores information about typeface, size etc.



DTP systems work by creating a series of boxes, into which you can place or 'import' either text or pictures. Unlike paste up, once you have put text or a picture into a box you can move, or 'drag', the box around the page with incredible ease. It is also possible to 'cut' and 'paste' text (or pictures) between boxes. These terms are taken from the old 'paste up process, but the method of doing them is much quicker and easier, not to mention less messy.

To style up our page we need to cut bits of our text from the first file we imported, paste it into other boxes around the page, and use the power and flexibility of the DTP program to change the size, colour, typeface, leading (line spacing) etc as needed.



The lithographic process, which is used to print most things – including this magazine, cannot print shades, only black or white. Unless you're printing in colour of course, in which case it will print cyan, magenta and yellow (C-M-Y) as well. So to give the appearance of shades pictures have to be made up of a pattern of really tiny dots, called a half tone.

Obviously if the designer wanted to use pictures, they weren't made up of little dots, so they had to be 'screened'. To put a halftone dot into a picture you take a photograph of your original through a process screen, using a machine called a process camera. Many design and smaller publishing companies had these as they were dead useful, and not too expensive. But for those who didn't companies called 'repro houses' did the job.



Once the pictures were screened they were ready to be pasted onto the mechanical, which was known as 'camera ready artwork'. The designer would go back to the paste up table and stick the pictures into the position he had marked with keylines. It's interesting to note that the K in C-M-Y-K actually stands for keyline. However when people used B for black it was often mistaken for blue, and it then got mixed up with the cyan plate.

When the pictures are stuck on the designer's work was over, and the camera-ready artwork was ready for the printers. One of the disadvantages of this old way of doing things is that, since it was all separate bits of paper glued together, sometimes a piece fell off on the way to the printers, which meant it would be missing from the finished document.

Guitarmageddon

Nirvana Vs Pearl Jam: The hype machine rolls on

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SUB POP ROCK CITY



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De full filmow? We say maybe.

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own bands and "Swallow Continued inside

Here is a finished 'paste-up' page, ready for the printers. Producing a page like this could take up to eight hours of actual work (typing, typesetting, proof-reading, pasting up) not to mention the time lost in transit to and from the typesetters etc.

Nowadays, nearly all designers use a computer DTP system to do their work, including our own Art Editor **Marcus Dyson.** He takes a look at Amiga DTP, and explains what all the fuss is about.

and how to do it!

now do with your Amiga)



The big advantage of DTP over the old way of doing things is the way the designer can work on the whole page as one entity, and the pictures are no exception. Just as we can import text into a text box, DTP packages allow a wide variety of picture formats to be imported and manipulated. These pictures could be created on the Amiga, using Deluxe Paint or Graphics Workshop, or they could be captured from the outside world using a digitiser or a scanner. Once you have them in your DTP program they can be printed out just like any other part of your document.

The scanner we use costs about £1,300 but hand scanners start at around £100.



Once all the text and pictures are on the page, the designer can begin the layout process in earnest. Useful tools, like making the guide lines of the grid 'snap' boxes to them makes lining up pictures and text much quicker than the old paste up method, and should you wish to change the design halfway through, there's no tedious peeling off what you've already done. It's not surprising that laying out a page this way can take less than a quarter of the time it did before.

But the real power of DTP is that the designer can see what his page looks like at any stage. And when it's all layed out, if the copy doesn't fit, it can be cut or written up right there on the page.

Guitarmageddon

The hype machine rolls or

either Minimum of Plant I alon. The larns of Court Cobbins, primers, who presence on the international less created will carly detected from the report of Nimerona sucception will carly detected from the report of Nimerona sucception the Court of Nimerona of Nimerona (Nimerona of Nimerona detection), this time the battle lines are determ. Maybe as a detection, this time the battle lines are determ. Maybe as or captro large and the late of Nimerona of Nimerona or captro large and the American plant based of American supports of of Pedra America, "the Pedra and were around in partial battle Nimerona over a seasof and indeed they the small battle of the captro of the Nimerona Nimerona of the Nimerona over a seasof and indeed they the small battle of the captro of the Nimerona Nimerona of the Nimerona over a seasof and indeed they the small battle of the captro of the Nimerona Nimerona over the time of the Nimerona Auctionsyn't This amount to these operations is of make mininged to an althous by the South battle of the Nimerona was manuaged to an althous by the South battle of the Nimerona make mininged to althous by the South battle of the Nimerona make mininged to althous by the South battle of the Nimerona make mininged to althous by the South battle of the Nimerona mininged to all althous by the South battle of the Nimerona mininged to all althous by the South battle of the Nimerona mininged to all althous by the South battle of the Nimerona mininged to all althous by the South battle of the Nimerona mininged to all all the South battle of the Nimerona Mininger South Battle of the South Battle of the Nimerona Mininger South Battle of the Ni



But when it comes down to it, does any of this matter. Pear Lan have produced an excellent debut, and whilst their are maybe more deserving abouts (Smathy Puminis, Cowder, Savaton, Britand Danis (Smathy Smathy Puminis, Cowder, Savaton, Britand Smathy Smathy

SUB POP ROCK CITY



Is SUB POP 200 the greatest CD of all time? We say maybe. When the music of Seathe's 65th Pop tabel text came to England for do with a whenty AND with a Darry. The whenger are the local superation of the property of the seather shall be locally with a whenty of the common and the common of the local superation and the local shall be leading such SP burnianes as Tod. Muchoney, The Fluid, the local shall be local shall local shall be local shall be local shall be local shall be

before becoming the first of Sub Popis major label signings who before becoming the first of Sub Popis major label signings who appeared to be destined for statemy it was Muthoney who appeared to be destined for statemen in these early days. This CD contains no less than three compositions from their main main. Mark Arm Two performed by this own bands and "Swallow

Once it's complete the file can be printed directly to printers' film by a Linotronic bureau. This page looks pretty similar to the one at the top of the page, but it took less than half the time to produce.

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Pages are made up of many different elements, which all combine together to get the necessary message across. We take a look at why they are there and what they consist of.

The things a page is made of

All the words on any page are made up from letters: nothing unusual there, but if you take a look, not all the letters are the same shape, and they're certainly not all the same size.

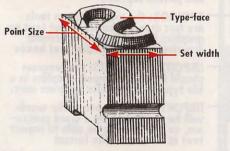
The reasons for them being different shapes are twofold, and quite simple. One reason is that they have evolved. In the same way cars are a different shape now to the way they looked in the 1920s, letters can now look very different from the way they looked back then. The only difference with letters is that once someone has designed a new shaped letter, people don't stop using the old ones.

The other reason type comes in lots of different shapes is simply personal taste; to use the car analogy again, its like one person choosing to drive a Ford Sierra, while another drives a BMW.

If I were designing this page, I might try using this shape of letters, called Eras

But you might prefer this shape (Helvetica black).

Each different shape of letters is called a typeface, and they all have names. You are now reading Helvetica, which was invented in Switzerland, and takes its name from Helvetia, which is what the Swiss call their country. The word typeface comes from the front face of the metal blocks that type used to be made on, they looked like this...



For hundreds of years typefaces remained basically the same, it was not too easy to design a new typeface when it has to be cut from metal, but in the last hundred or so years the number of typefaces has multiplied rapidly.

Before type was made from metal it was carved from stone. To make the letter shapes look neater the stone masons would make a perpendicular stroke across the end of the arms, ascenders, descenders etc. These cross cuts were called serifs, and when type went to metal, these were retained. Typefaces that had this shape of letter were known as serifed faces. Later on typographers designed faces without these shapes, these newer fonts were called sans-serifs.

Serif Sans-Serif

It's common to use both types of face in one document, and although serifed faces have proven to be more readable as body text, many people use sanssarif faces to give a 'modern' look. The person who made up all the rows of metal type would keep all the letters separate in a large wooden case, and all the capital letters would be in the top half of the case, and the small letters would be in the bottom half...

SO THESE ARE KNOWN AS UPPER CASE and these are called lower case

A typeface at a certain size used to be called a font, and because they were all made of metal, the difference between one font and another was definite, and important. Modern computer DTP systems can scale fonts up or down, so the word is less important now than it ever was before. If you don't have Helvetica 12 nowadays, you just use Helvetica 10 and scale it up to 120 per cent of its normal size.

The reasons for letters being different sizes are very simple, obviously words have to be big enough to be read easily...

we might get a lot in, but would you read Amiga Format if the words were this big?.

And of course you want to draw immediate attention to some parts of the page, particularly the headline, so you put it in large text.

The way the size of characters is measured also goes back to the days of metal type. The size of type is measured in a unit called points, shortened to pts. A point is equal to 1/72nd of an inch. You are now reading type that is 7pts in size.

The problem with point sizes is that they don't actually relate to the size of the letter, but to the size of the piece of metal it used to be on.

This is 15 pt and so is this.

So it is easily possible for two different typefaces to be the same point size, but look as if they are actually different sizes. One thing that makes DTP so special is that it gives you the power to control all of the things we have just talked about, plus one or two others. But before you can go changing the typeface of your text you have to have some fonts installed into your system. Every Amiga comes with a few fonts, and if you buy a DTP program you may get a few more. Not all fonts are the same however, and if you are serious about DTP you need to know the difference.

Amiga fonts (like the ones that came with your machine, or are available in the Public Domain) are bitmap fonts, they are made of a grid of 8 x 8 pixels, and if you enlarge them the pixels show, making these fonts unacceptable for serious DTP use.

Another type of font is an outline font, these are made up of points, lines and curves, and when they are enlarged they still look perfectly smooth.

Amiga **Outline**

The most common type of outline font for the Amiga is the Compugraphic range of fonts, available from a number of sources.

For the simplicity of your document it is best to limit the number of fonts you use, preferably to around five or six. in **Amiga Format** we use...

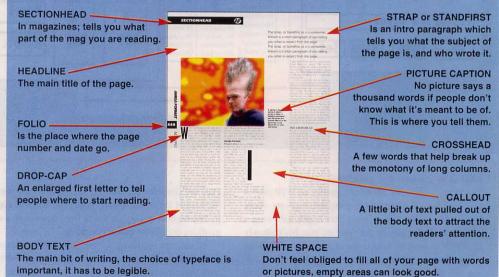
Frutiger, Times, Eras, Futura, Helvetica

If you don't believe us take a look for yourself. The reason it looks as if we use more than just five typefaces is that we apply styles to them. Styles are effects that DTP packages can use on a typeface to make it appear different ie

Frutiger italic, Eras Ultra Bold

Most DTP programs allow you to save a style for repeated use once you have defined it.







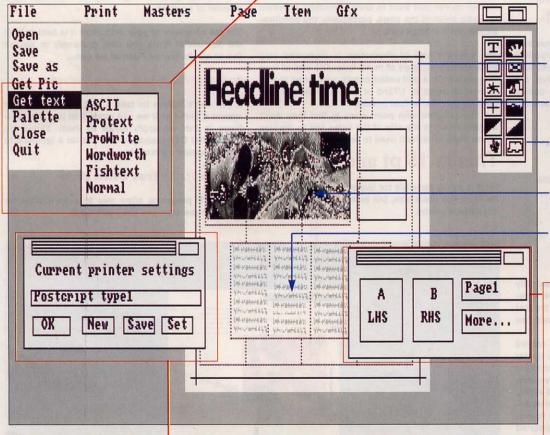
What to expect from a DTP program

So you've seen what the idea of a DTP program is: now you might find it useful to get a quick run-through of what to expect from a DTP package, and what features are vital when you're deciding what to buy.

The big advantage of working in DTP is that the designer can approach the page as a whole, with text and pictures all as intrinsic parts of the document. The WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get) display gives a good impression of what the finished result will look like, and once you are used to the individual quirks and shortcuts of your particular program, you can turn pages around with considerable speed. But whilst all DTP programs do the same basic job, they don't all go about doing things in the same way, and some are more suited to a particular job than others. There are a few questions that you should ask before purchasing any program:

Will it work with my word processor?

Virtually every page you use will have some text on it. If it's only small amounts you could enter it straight into your DTP program, but if you are dealing with bigger amounts of words you have to be sure that your DTP package can import text in the file format of your word processor. This is not completely critical, because text files are one of the most easily converted of any data files, but having to do this will involve time and effort, and require you to have a program which can do it.



Will it support my printer?

The biggest single factor in the quality of DTP output is the printer. But not every program supports every printer. If you buy *PageStream* Soft Logik will write a printer driver for you if the relevant one isn't already available. But not all companies are so accommodating.

One way to get better quality output without spending too much money is to buy a laser printer. These devices often use a language called HPGL (Hewlett

Packard Graphics Language), so again, if you want to use one of these, make sure your program will support it. The highest quality output is from devices that use a graphics interpreter called PostScript.

If you are intending to use your DTP package for professional quality output, you would probably be well advised to get one which is compatible with PostScript.

Does it use the right picture file format?

An Amiga DTP package is sure to support the IFF picture format, but what if you are using a 24-bit scanner, will it support IFF24? If you want to import clip art, or structured drawings, does it support the relevant file format? If you are wanting to port images from a PC or a Mac you could convert the file format using the *Art Department* professional, or something similar. But wouldn't it be easier if you could just import the picture in its original format? Some DTP programs can handle a surprisingly wide range of picture formats, if you are going to be using one format extensively, check to see if your intended program is compatible!

Will this program support the right fonts for my requirements?

As we have already mentioned, if you are need to scale fonts up in size, you will find that normal Amiga fonts are not of a high enough quality (because of their bitmapped nature, rather than any problem with the fonts themselves). The answer is of course Outline fonts, but, like everything else, these come in a number of formats, so once again it's a matter of checking they're the right ones.

Also consider if you want to share the fonts between programs (*ProPage* and *PageStream* for instance), they have to be compatible with all the packages.

THE IMPORTANT BITS OF ANY DTP PROGRAM

PAGE GRID: the whole page is visible as one discrete element: you can zoom in on bits of it at will.

DIRECT ENTRY TEXT: you must be able to type in things like headlines and picture captions

TOOLBOX: the most common tools are for: drawing boxes to put text or graphics in; moving boxes around; drawing lines and linking text boxes

IMPORTED PICTURES: the program should be able to import graphics in a file type your graphics program uses.

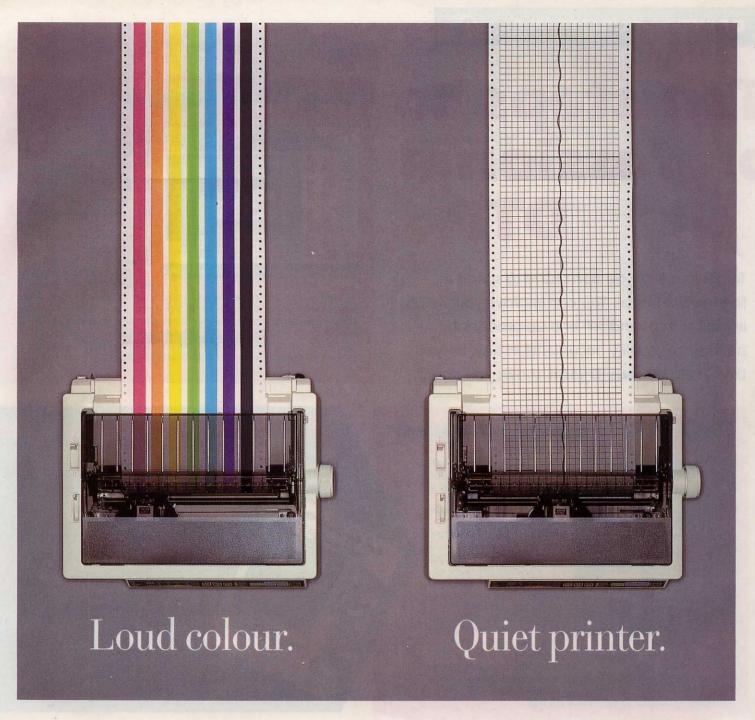
IMPORTED TEXT: most of the words will be written up on a word processor, so you have to be able to import text in a relevant file format

Can I make and store a grid for my regular document sizes?

If you use a certain size of document regularly, you will want to save a grid as a file on disk. Most DTP packages will allow you to do this, but not all of them work the same way.

Some programs allow you to create elements on a 'master page' which will then appear on all the pages of your document. But not all programs will let you edit these 'master' elements on the document pages, so they are only really any use as a guide grid, or as a repeated element like a logo. If you want to create a grid with text columns on your master pages, you can, but you can't then import text into those columns once you use the master page to create a normal document page.

Some of your documents may require more than two master pages (one for left, one for right), but not all programs have the facility to let you do this.

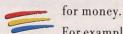


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Ten steps to professional

To get into DTP you don't have to spend a fortune all at once. You can improve your setup in logical steps and still end up producing professional quality documents in next to no time at all. Marcus Dyson shows you how...

Step %: Do nothing



Get the Most Out of

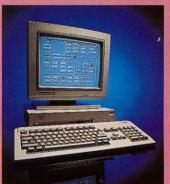
Your Amiga 199

To get started in DTP you don't have to do anything, unless you're reading someone else's copy of Amiga Format that is. In which case you should go out and buy your own copy, because on the front of this issue is a copy of PageSetter 1.2. This is a fully functional, if rather basic desktop publishing package from Gold Disk.

PageSetter was the first ever Amiga DTP package, and it

will work with all your Amiga fonts and print to any Preferences set up on your printer. If you don't have a printer, you do have a problem. But the best thing to do is save up a few documents on a disk, then when your friend goes on holiday, offer to look after his dog/cat/armadillo. Then whilst he's away, run all your documents out on his printer. If your friend doesn't have a printer, or you don't have any friends, proceed to step 2...

Step 7: Get a new computer



We'd all like a 3000, but if you're doing serious DTP they make sense.

Now you're using a more capable DTP package you will have noticed how slow the Amiga is. It's not really the machines fault, DTP is a very demanding area of computer use. Remember the A500 only has a standard Motorola 68000 chip crawling along at 8MegaHertz.

You'll find DTP much less of a chore if you have a faster machine. The solution is to buy a 2000, or better still a 3000. The 3000 has a built-in flicker fixer card, and a 68030 processor racing along at 25MHz, it costs about £3,500. The 2000 has the same processor as the

A500, and costs in the region of £1,300. Adding an accelerator card and flicker fixer would take that up to between £2,000 and £3,000 depending on how fast an accelerator you use.

Step 6: Improve the output

Once you have started using a more advanced package you will have the ability to produce much more professional-looking page layouts.

With the power to use 24-bit images and outline fonts at your disposal, the output from your old dot-matrix printer will start to look a bit shabby. I mean, what is the point of getting typefaces that look smooth, no matter what size you use them at, if your printer just makes them look rough again.

Now's the time for you to start considering a better printer. One option is a PostScript colour laser printer, but they cost many thousands of pounds. A more reasonable solution is an inkjet printer like the Sharp JX-730, which at £1,300 is still not exactly cheap, but the results justify the price.

By using the Sharp, results like the page on the left can be achieved. While not guite good enough to use as artwork, this printout could be used for proofing (checking to see how it looks) a page. It would even be good enough for a colour photocopy leaflet.

Step 8: Get a better scanner



Throw that crappy little scanner you just bought in the bin, and get a proper one.

Now you are into the region of true professional DTP, the documents you produce on your current set up will be of a suitably high-quality to use as artwork for four-colour process printing. But while your cheap colour scanner produces good enough images for your LaserJet printer, its shortcomings would be obvious when the images were printed.

To produce true photographic quality images, you need a scanner with full 24-bit capability, like Sharp's

JX300/450/600 family. You will need software to drive the scanner, and also an image processing package to correct the colours of your scanned images. Whilst you're spending all this money you might as well stick a 24-bit colour board in your A2000/3000, so that you can see on screen what your scans actually look like. The cost of all this, well you could spend £2000, but if you get carried away you could spend £10,000. We're in big money territory now.

Step 9: Use a bureau



Printers' separated film has one sheet for each of the four ink colours.

With all this equipment to create your pages, you don't want your output to let you down. So you need to print on printers' final film from a PostScript imagesetter. There are many bureaux around the country who offer a printing service from these machines. Imagesetters are very expensive, so your local bureau will charge

you a quite healthy price, around £20 for every page they output . Printers' film is a series of four pieces of transparent photographic film that is 'colour separated' . This means that there is one piece of film for each colour of ink the printers use: one for cyan, one for magenta, one for yellow and one for black. These films are printed at a very high resolution, over 2,000 dots per inch, so the images are very sharp.



Step 2: Get a printer



If you're doing DTP you'll need a printer, but they start at quite reasonable prices.

Let's face it, without a printer, DTP wise you are not going to get very far. Unless your friend goes on a hell of a lot of holidays that is. If you are at all serious about DTP you are going to have to get a printer. Which type you should get depends on how serious you are. Mono dotmatrix printers start at less than £120. These are fine if

you are going to stay with a mono-only program like *PageSetter*, but if you are thinking of moving on to a slightly better DTP package, it might be worth splashing out for a colour printer. Colour printers start at around £220. Once you have your printer you will be able to print documents with text and Amiga pictures from programs like *DPaint* and *ProDraw*. You can also get extra fonts and clip art from the Public Domain for very little extra cost.

Step 3: Consider a scanner



Small and handy, Amiga scanners are a boon to any DTPer.

So now you can output your text and images that have been created on the Amiga. But what about pictures from the real world, like photographs. To get these into your Amiga you need to use a scanner.

Small hand scanners, like the one pictured on the left, are less than £200, but the quality of the pictures they produce is not particularly

great. They are mono and dither the pixels to produce the effects of tones, when the dither pattern is combined with the pattern of the dot-matrix printer, very rough images can result. A very good hand scanner to consider is the PanDaal handiscan.

The cheapest colour scanner is the Sharp JX-100, which still costs nearly £600 including software. But it can scan pictures in HAM mode and the results are absolutely excellent.

Step 5: Better software



PageStream 2.2.



ProfessionalPage 3.

Now you have the ability to capture and store colour images, and print in colour. So now you need software that can make use of all this hardware power. On pages 118 and 120 of this issue we review the top two Amiga DTP packages, PageStream 2.2 and ProfessionalPage 2. Both these programs are high end, PostScript-compatible DTP packages with the ability to handle outline fonts in colour. They are both able to make the best use of your colour scanned images, and produce high quality output from any kind of printer.

Step 4: Increase your storage



DTP files can be positively huge, you could find a hard drive a major help.

Once you start scanning pictures for your documents you will find that a floppy disk isn't always big enough to keep your pictures on. In fact, if you are scanning in colour you may find that some of your files are several megabytes in size. It's time to consider getting a hard drive. Apart from the extra storage space for pictures and documents, you will also be able to store more fonts. An added bonus of a hard drive is that your DTP program will

run faster once installed on it. Accessing fonts, opening documents, importing pictures will all happen in the twinkling of an eye compared to working from floppies. Hard drives start at around £300, but it could be worth paying a bit more to get a better one. Hard drives are also a good way of adding RAM.

Once you get a hard drive, you open up lots of doors for the future expansion of your system. Some more advanced DTP programs like *ProfessionalPage 3* will only run from a hard drive.

Step 10: Buy a Linotron



Imagesetters are a little too expensive for most home enthusiasts.

If you find you are doing a lot of full-colour separation work then it may be worth your while getting your own imagesetter. You would be lucky to get one for less than £20,000 though, so we're not talking enthusiast's budget here.

In fact, at £20 per page an imagesetter wouldn't pay for itself until you had put 1,000 pages through it. That's the equivalent of nearly four copies of *Amiga Format*, ads an' all.

Remember you have to keep it supplied with films and chemicals too, and employ someone to run it. This would be the step to full-time professional DTP, and even then you would probably have spare imaging time left over. You could always use your excess capacity to offer a bureau service to other DTP users. We know of a few people who have done this, and they have been quite successful.

Just do it

So there we have it, DTP from no cost at all through to DTP costing many, many thousands of pounds. DTP as a way of listing the tracks on your cassettes through to DTP as a full-time business proposition. And common to all of this is the Amiga.

We're not suggesting that you go out and spend all your money on rigging up to do high-end DTP. But we just thought you'd like to know that the Amiga can do it as well as any other Personal Computer. Many people did not take the Amiga seriously as a DTP machine at first, but with the software and the hardware that are now available to do it, they have no choice. To a large extent we have Gold Disk to thank for this, for it was they who launched the first ever DTP package for the Amiga, and it is they who have pioneered the boundaries of quality DTP on the machine. Who can say that if *ProPage* had never happened, we would have ever been able to write this feature at all?

Now the area has been opened up, we can expect to see more programs, and programs of a higher quality related to Amiga DTP. Already this month we have brought you news of a new structured drawing package from HB Marketing, and that's just the beginning.

You have the computer, and now you have the software, so just do it. And if you find that you can't do what you want with *PageSetter*, remember that it's only the gate to a very big field.



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using Easy AMOS – and surprised when you discover exactly how they were put together.

Be PRINT

What's inside

This programming course consists of two discs and a light-hearted user guide. This is cleverly linked to an electronic coach who tests your progress after you have read each

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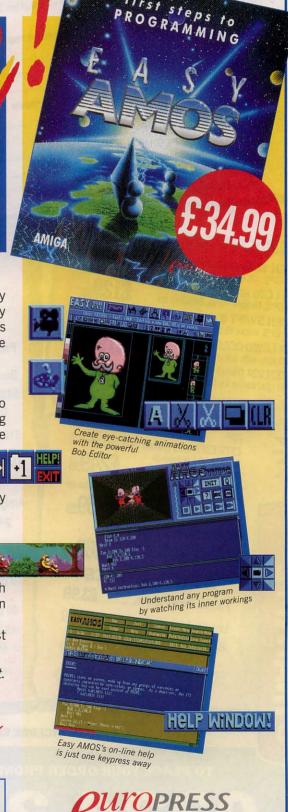
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OFTWARE



THE POLITICAL CREW

The whole place has gone election-mad and everyone's too busy scoring points off each other to notice that there's a whole world of untaxed action on your Amiga. We collared some of the country's most feared and revered politicians to find out what they propose to do to help Amiga-owners through the recession.

After hours of lobbying MPs in the hallowed corridors of a small bar just off Parliament Square, we managed to talk an entire Commons' Select Committee into reviewing the latest games. As a result, many of them are now under compulsory purchase orders.

But if you think the decrepid old fuddy-duddies in Westminster aren't switched on, you're only half right. Most of them aren't plugged in, wired-up or even close to power. Vote Screenplay before it's too late!

NEIL JACKSON

Joystick-Wagglers Party. "I'd put a tax on all shootem-ups that didn't have high-score tables and bring in legislation to make ownership of seedy Strip Poker games a hangable offence.



CLARE HODGSON

Women Driver's Party. "The current high level of male-orientated games is unacceptable in a liberated society. Our government will introduce penalties for the use of masculine sprites.



JAMES LEACH

Let's Get Naked And Party. "If elected, I'd publicly eat my shorts, and then demand that all the sharp corners be removed from joysticks and other peripherals. I would then declare war on Atari."



TIM SMITH

The Hearty Farty Party. "Yes, well it's not as simple as that, really. You must take into consideration the fact that we're all members of one great big Amiga family and as such..."(tape ran out)



ED RICKETTS

Party of the Third Part. "Crikey! Is it that time again already? I'd completely forgotten. Well, I suppose I'd have to bring in an automatic right to back-up, and free games for all. Prob'ly."



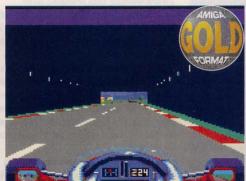
NEIL WEST

Party Animal Party. "I have never even heard of an Amiga and I would execute anyone seen wearing one in a public place. Now get away from me before call the police, you parasite.



Screenplay

Hello, good evening and welcome, to the very first Electionnight special edition of Screenplay. We'll be following the entire proceedings, watching the results coming in and mumbling on about them until dawn. So why not while away the hours playing something wholesome on your Amiga until the normal programmes return. But first, the results from Bath...



Is this the fastest ever race game? There's Vroom for one more, if you're quick.



TV terrorism or just fun for all the family? Bomberman really is dynamite stuff.

ANDY HUTCHINSON

Life and Soul of the Party. "I would immediately offer my services as the role-model for all monsters which form the central element in fantasy games. Then I'd retire on the proceeds and watch TV."



LINDA BARKER

Mouse House Party. "I plan to set free the many thousands of innocent mice that have been forced to lead a life of slavery by corrupt Amiga-users..."(speech inter rupted by jeering hecklers)



RICHARD LONGHURST

In the Kitchen At Parties. "If elected (and indeed, if not), I'd force everyone to turn the page and stop wasting time with all this election nonsense. There are Amiga games out there, waiting.







Fox-hunting, the humane

way, can be fun. Don't be

Is Space Crusade just Hero PAGE Quest Plus? Or is it the future of hack'n'slash?





The Not-invited To The Party. "I remember the times v used to have as children, try ing to find games for my Amiga, long before it was invented. I'd make young sters play cricket instead."





The shelves will be filled to bursting if this month's previews make it to the shops on time. **Neil Jackson** takes a close look at the best of the...

B-17 Flying Fortress RK IN PROGRESS

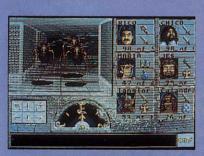
MicroProse Expected: June



style animation, Mirage's new Ragnarok promises to be something rather special. It's a board game, but it's harder than chess, and prettier too.

This month sees the arrival of a brand new software house, Mirage, and they're off to a fine start. With no less than four products in development, they've certainly come in with a bang. Their first little gem, a Lemmings-style cutesy-puzzle called Humans, is previewed in more detail in Under Construction (see Page 48). Ragnarok, which is expected to hit the shops in June, is a strategy game based on the mythological battles between rival Norse gods. It's derived from a very old board-game King's Table (a bit like chess) and your aim is to protect your king Odin from attack. The game is played on a large square board with special squares in the corners; you have to move Odin from the perilous centre square to one of these. To protect you, there are many special pieces you can use for blocking and attacking. The work of Imagitec Design, Ragnarok could be something special if you're a bit bored with shoot-em-ups and Chinese Checkers.

Mirage are also in the process of tying up a deal for another game, called Ashes of Empire. We're not sure what it's all about yet, 'cos it's still hush-hush, but as soon as we know, you'll hear about it. In the meantime, mum's the word, OK?



Prepare yourself for another stint of incredibly late nights and bags under your eyes. The sequel to Eye of the Beholder, called Legend of Darkmoon, is on its way from US Gold at this very moment.

Over at US Gold, they're busy toiling at their newest SSI games, Pools of Darkness and The Legend of Darkmoon. Both are part of US Gold's catalogue of TSR Advanced Dungeons and Dragons games. Pools of Darkness is the fourth and final chapter in the Forgotten Realms epic, and it's due for completion in May. More exciting, The Legend of Darkmoon is none other than the sequel to (wait for it, wait for it)... Eye of the Beholder! Yes, it's finally coming - and you should be able to grab a copy next month. From what we've heard, it's one helluva game, making the original EOB look like a mere taster. There's far more interaction with characters, a much, much larger area to explore and monsters that'll turn you into an insomniac, all over again.

As if their AD&D games weren't enough, US Gold are also cracking on with two other likely smash-hits - Indiana Jones and the Fate of Atlantis, due for release in May, and Monkey Island 2-LeChuck's Revenge, due anyday now. The Indy game is an isometric 3D action adventure made up of five separate stages, each with their own different sub-levels. In it you control both Indy himself and his friend Sophia Hapgood - and unlike most ⇒

It's chocks-away time again chaps, as MicroProse prepare to take to the skies in another old Second World War crate. This

time, they're flying high in the ancient Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress, star of the award-winning film Memphis Belle.

While it might look like a bag of nuts and bolts tied up with string, the B-17 was one of the hardest planes of the war. It was said that it could still fly with half a wing missing, a feat that was put to the test with alarming regularity, thanks to the 360 degree firing arc of its guns. On more than one occasion B-17s returned home after shooting off their own tail-flaps. And MicroProse assure us that you can do this in their simulation too, so beware!

The team responsible for B-17 is none other than Andy Craven's Vektor Grafix, no strangers to the world of flight-sims, so great things may be in store. They've set out to provide more than just a simple flight simulation, partly for extra style-points and partly because flying the real B-17 was a two-man job (and that doesn't include the navigator and gunners). The game allows you to perform any one of the tasks involved, from flying to bombing, or merely act as flight manager, directing the mission from the safety of the operations room. Either way, there's a crew of 10 men at stake each time you louse up.

Most of the action takes place in the daytime (as it did in real-life), and this makes you an obvious target for German fighter planes. So self-defence is likely to be as important as hitting your bombing target, and you have no less than eleven on-board guns to do this. And by all accounts, the B-17 was one mean mother - responsible for the

There it is, the airborne death-trap - the Flying Fortress. A sitting duck against fighters (as the rear one shows), but deadly against buildings.

destruction of Frankfurt and most of the Ruhr Valley during the Thousand Bomber Raids. It emerged (but not totally unscathed) as the plane with the highest kill-ratio of the war - and not a laser-guided bomb in sight!

Special Forces MicroProse Expected: May

In a different part of the ever-growing MicroProse empire, you'll find the aptlynamed Sleepless Knights putting the finishing touches to Special Forces, a new ground combat simulation. Slightly less "techie" than MicroProse's usual output, Special Forces is aimed at the younger (or less-experienced) strategy-heads out there. Instead of reams of background information and in-depth strategy, the emphasis is more on action, but with plenty of strategy thrown in to make you think harder.



Scud-busting, Special Forces style, involves creep ing up to the launchers and dynamiting them. Bombing them from the air would be far too easy.

The game puts you in control of four squaddies, each with special commando-style skills, and it's up to you to get them to their mission objective and back home safely.



Coming

B-17 doesn't just feature massive bombers - there are also plenty of German fighters to contend with too. Here's one popping out to greet you.



Each mission, 10 gallant geezers were chosen to fly inside the B-17. But the most finely-honed skills couldn't guarantee they'd all make it back alive.



Attractions

Deliverance21st Century Entertainment

Expected: May



With shots like this, it's deliverance from temptation you need. But before you get put off (or turned on), you should know she's part of the plot – not just a lame excuse for digitising the artist's girlfriend. You have to battle through four levels of beat-em-up and rescue some fairies from Satan's lair. It's too hot for clothes there, innit? OK, maybe it was a lame excuse...

Steel Empire Millennium Expected: May



This epic strategy war-game looks set to dispel all the myths about computers being antisocial, because up to five players can battle against each other for world domination. And there's nothing antisocial about that, is there? You control an ever-growing country and your aim is to invade and hold the rest of this futuristic world. Armed with the latest in combat cybernetics, your team has to be tougher and smarter than your enemies' if you're to survive.

Global Effect

Millennium Expected: May



Combining the best elements of Sim City and Sim Earth, with Populous-style elements thrown in for good measure, Global Effect promises to be a "must-have" for all you god-heads. Long term survival strategies meet environmental catastrophes head-on in this battle for ecofriendly megalomania. As you read this, the final testing is taking place at Millennium's HQ. Look out for the whole world under the macroscope next month.

World Class Rugby The 5 Nations

Audiogenic Expected: May



Just in time for the Five Nations Championship, Audiogenic announce an updated version of their World Class Rugby. It's been revamped as a result of suggestions from game-players (and Amiga Format's old Screenplay Ed, Trenton Webb too). The new version has better artificial intelligence, action replays, and simpler controls. Who says software houses don't listen?

Alcatraz

Infogrames Expected: May



After a long, long time in coming, Infogrames' Alcatraz at last makes a break for freedom. This one or two-player action beat-em-up puts you in command of a mission to eradicate a bunch of sicko drug-dealers who're holed up in the old Devil's Island long-stay hotel. To help, you have an entire armoury at your disposal. There's plenty of action and excitement, and it's from the same team who brought you Hostages. We'll be checking it out in depth next issue.

Dark Seed

Mirage Expected: May



Aliens fans, this could be what you've been waiting for... Oscar-winning surrealist, HR Giger, the man behind the freaky bio-mechanical artwork, teams up with Los Angeles software house CyberDreams to bring you a new sci-fi adventure. Highlights include a fully-digitised central character, based on a real person, which moves in perspective, and animated metallic sprites which carry reflections. Dunno `bout you, but we can hardly wait...

⇒ isometric games, you have the ability to move the camera around so you need never lose sight of them. *Monkey Island 2*, however, follows the tradition set by its predecessor, with all the humour you can swallow and a solution so twisted you'll be beside yourself. If we can stop ourselves laughing in time, we'll bring you a review of this in time for next month. You can be pretty sure *LeChuck's Revenge* is hotter than a small planet between Mercury and the Sun, but it's better to be safe than sorry.



A Desk of My Own, Episode 35. David Birch of Thalamus visits Arsenal football club and asks: "Just how important do you have to be to justify two phones on your desk, and a bronze model of an ancient Howitzer?"

In a different league altogether, the football craze we saw last month still doesn't seem to be over. **Thalamus** have announced a tie-up between themselves and the team that fluffed the FA Cup, Arsenal. Sometime over Easter, they're hoping to release the snappily-titled *Arsenal FC – The Computer Game*. It'll feature plenty of arcade action, and a management section to boot. We've not seen hide nor hair of it yet, so we could be waiting for a late kick-off. The Hammers' biggest rival, Liverpool, are also the subject of (yet another) computer-footie game, called, er, *Liverpool*. **Grandslam** are busy tackling this arcade-style kickabout, although we reckon with a name like Grandslam they should be doing rugby games. You can take your pick from league games or FA Cup challenges, but unlike the "sick-as-a-parrot" Liverpool team, you could also go on to win the European cup. Bad luck, lads!



An old farmer once said: "It's only any good if there are flies still crawling over it." Somehow, we don't think he was referring to Apidya at the time, but there's still a truth in there somewhere.

And finally, news of a strange infestation soon to hit your Amiga. A swarm of insect-related games looks likely to plague us during May. Blue Byte, the team behind the excellent war-game, Battle Isles, are trying their hand at shoot-em-ups. Their Apidya is a Nemesis-style bug-hunt, pitching you against hordes of giant mutated insects. Its fast-scrolling, full-screen action looks the business, but the game is tough to play, and you'll need six arms to defend yourself from the leaping grasshoppers, queen bees and mega-wasps. Meanwhile, Ocean are getting ready to unleash yet more bugs, in the shape of Maxis' new Sim Ant – a true Ant-farm. You control a colony of ants in its mission to overrun some poor fool's house, driving him out in the process. You act as Ant God, laying scent trails, leaving food and instructing the ants to reproduce. Yeach! The whole place is beginning to stink of formic acid, so we're off to get a kettle of hot-water and call Rentokil.

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VISA



Was the wheel man's first great invention, or did we stumble upon it blindly one day?.

Neil Jackson won-

ders whether it was all a big accident, or if Humans holds the real truth.

harles Darwin had some pretty radical ideas about the origins of mankind, so much so that he was branded a blasphemer and a heretic by the religious men of his time. It's anyone's guess what they would have made of Humans (assuming there was an Amiga to play it on), the latest game in the pipeline from the new software house, Mirage. Humans is a mildly mocking look at the development of our early ancestors, Homo Bitmappus, as they struggle to cope in the prehistoric era. If Darwin had seen it, he may have been forced to change his mind.

Imagitec, the Dewsbury-based team responsible for the programming of Humans, have big plans for their pixellised forefathers. They're gearing themselves up to do no less than three different games, all based around the continuing development of our race. The first of the three (the one you see on these pages) is subtitled 'Introducing the Humans', and it concentrates on the very earliest moments in our civilisation, from the discovery of fire to the creation of the wheel.

The original idea for Humans came from one of Imagitec's former employees, Rodney Humble, after playing Psygnosis' widelyacclaimed Lemmings. Rodney, inspired by the puzzle element of the game, developed his ideas and then drew them all out as storyboards which were then passed on to the Imagitec programmers to turn into Humans.

Simon Golding, the producer responsible for all the versions of Humans, was quick to point out that the Lemmings connection was not something they were embarrassed about: "We're trying to get away from the idea that

Humans is full of Lemmings-type logic puzzles. For example, once you've got the first little caveman over the collapsing bridge, how do you get the rest of them across the chasm?



mar

Mirage Expected: June



Teamwork is often the only way to solve some of the trickier problems. By getting the cavemen to stand on each other's shoulders, you can climb up the sides of cliffs.

Humans is a Lemmings rip-off," says Simon. "It's not! We were inspired by it, but Humans is totally different, with bigger graphics, a more cartoonesque feel, and with much funnier moments throughout the game. The levels, too, are quite a bit more varied in terms of their style and tactics."

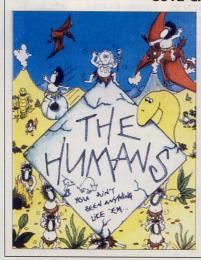
Coding for the project began in December last year, with Dave Lincoln, who programmed Suspicious Cargo for Gremlin, handling the Amiga version. Dave uses the industry-standard Snasm assembly system from Cross Products, writing the code on an editor, using a PC and porting it to his Amiga for testing. During this process, graphics were created by Mick Hanrahan (who did the artwork for EA's Ferrari F1) and Andy Gilmour (of Zone Warrior fame). At the same time Ian Howe and Barry Leitch, the musicians behind the Silkworm soundtrack and a host of other Gremlin titles, were slaving over the tunes for Humans. And once it's all finished, work begins on the next two stages in the trilogy.

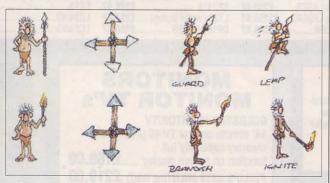
Simon firmly believes that the sequels must develop the Humans' technique even further. "We'll use the same style, but we may upgrade the graphics to make them even larger," he said. "But we don't want to just upgrade the graphics and have the same game - that would be a waste of a good idea. We'll be developing the gameplay each time to give you more puzzles and more gameplay twists."

The next instalment in the trilogy is The Age of Chivalry, which charts humans' success with more complex devices like catapults and castle drawbridges. In it, you'll be able to fire one of the more daring members of your clan over the battlements, Robin Hood fashion.

Sometime next year, part three is due to hit the streets, in the shape of Humans in Space. Imagitec hope this will see mankind struggling to make its mark with various electronic gizmos, electric doors and androids, but as yet very little work has been put into the scenario. As soon as news starts to filter through, we'll let you know more. Until then, prepare yourself for plenty of late nights spent giggling at your Amiga's screen, watching your alter egos take their first tentative steps towards civilisation.

CUTE CARTOON CAVEMAN CAPERS





Lemmings' secret wasn't just gameplay - it was the cute graphics. Humans' intro screen (left) follows the trend in an effort to make the cavemen more appealing than the hairy-faced foul-smelling beings you'd expect them to be. The artwork above is a sketch which Imagitec intend to use as a guide for the icon display. In the finished game, you'll click on the relevant image to make your cavemen perform bizarre actions with fire

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Pour on the speed (and then wipe it off with a damp, clean cloth) in Vroom, UBI Soft's challenge to the huge mound of racing games that are already out there. It's fast, it's fun, it's funky, but most of all it's French.

Vroom





Get out of the way, you stupid Japanese - er, racing driver! This long straight bit with the awkward corner at the bottom gets you every time on the first track.

et's be honest right up front. Any racing game released from now on is going to have to withstand immediate comparison to MicroProse's Formula One Grand Prix before it even gets off the starting line. But Vroom is a different sort of racing game altogether (cue chorus in the background: "Vroom is a different sort..."). While it's not nearly as simplistic as, say, Cisco Heat, it certainly doesn't pretend to be definitively realistic.

Under your control is a very fast car indeed. This car is controllable either with the joystick (the wimp's option) or the mouse. In a previous incarnation the game forced you to use either the mouse or joystick for particular modes - enough to put you off the game completely at first. The Amiga version removes this restriction (at the request of many frustrated players) and it makes the game much more approachable.

At first you shy away completely from mouse control, because it's so damn difficult: you need to push forward to accelerate, pull back to brake, use the left and right buttons to change gear, and steer at the same time. Once you get used to its subtleties, however, you realise it's by far the best control method, offering you far more precision than a joystick can. Automatic and manual gears are available in both modes — again, manual is the best option once you're used to the car.



Whizzing through a covered section you find what appears to be some sort of obscure stationary accident happening on the side of the track..



The fun! The speed! The crashes! The stupid placement of the indicator lights which mean you can only see them when you're turning a corner!

The game offers three very different modes to race in. Training allows you to pick the number of laps and the circuit to race on, from the six included (Anderstop, Castellet, Zeltweg, Silverstone, Watkins Glen or Mount Fuji). It's basically a chance to whiz round each circuit and try to beat your best lap time without any other competitors getting in the way.

Even better is the 'Help' key that bails you out at any time by putting you back parallel to the track edge. In Arcade mode you need to pass a certain number of cars on each lap to qualify, and of course this number increases the farther you get.

A day at the races

There's also a somewhat informative Demo mode, which shows you all the best places to crash. Actually, having a quick shufty at the demo before you attempt a lap is a good idea. There's nothing worse than coming cold to a course, screaming around what looks like an easy bend and rapidly making the acquaintance of a hoarding by the side of the track.

But the real biggie is the Competition mode. This is a full championship, with names (authentically humorous ones like Latreze and Mainsail being provided by the game) and times are recorded after each race. You need to race a qualifying lap before each circuit to place yourself on the grid, and since you have to work your way through each and every

OH LOOK, THAT LITTLE RED LIGHT'S COME ON! IS THAT IMPORTANT THEN?

The only things you need to keep an eye on during a race (apart from the map) are the tyres, your petrol and your engine.



The easiest thing to forget about is your petrol level. Again you can get a top-up at the pits. Of course that's no good when you're on the other side of the track and you run out of gas, forcing you to sit on the track like a soporific lemon until the race ends.



Tyres can become knackered if you take too many detours on that attractive grassy bit next to the track. The car rattles up and down like an aged Metro and you'd be advised to stop off at the pits and get the tyres changed. Otherwise corners become a problem.



Top tip number one: don't do 250mph in first gear. Too much abuse and the engine gets really ratty and explodes – you can see the flames in your rear-view mirrors. And you only get the one for each race – no pit stop in the world can help you there.



Crashing: it's not good for your car, it's not good for your time (you lose valuable seconds as your car is put back on the track) and it's not good for you. On the whole, best avoided really.

circuit in turn it's best to make use of the Save and Load Game facilities. One fairly minor point to note here: you save names and times direct onto the game disk, which means a) you can't keep different sets of stats and b) there is always the possibility of something going horribly wrong with the drive while you are saving, which would leave you with a completely useless game disk.

One of the most enjoyable options is the modem link. Connecting up two Amigas with

your tyres are OK. And as usual, none of the other competitors ever crash - though they do stop at the pits. In fact, they usually do this just when you want to, and naturally you don't actually see them until you're approximately three feet from their rear tyres in what you thought was an easy swerve-into-the-pits-fora-eas-fill-up manoeuvre.

Yes indeed, it's straw-clutching on a major scale when it comes to criticism, because, to put it bluntly, *Vroom* is most excellent. It's got

"Vroom is a top class game with tons of careful programming behind it."

a null modem cable allows you and a friend to race each other one-on-one. This, of course, leads to much verbal abuse as one player crashes and has the humiliation of watching the other sail briskly by.

Days of thunder

Vroom is fast, much faster than F1 Grand Prix. The graphics crack along at a phenomenal rate, and although this is partly because of their simplicity (relatively speaking), you can't help being impressed. Hills and hollows are incredibly realistic, so much so you find yourself swaying with the car as it rounds a bend or crests a hill. Accompanying this to perfection is the meaty growl of your engine and the Doppler-effect enhanced sound of all the other cars screaming past you. Whack the volume up and you can become completely lost. The intro music is suitably tacky too.

As you might expect, it's not all wonderfulness, though you really have to grope to find anything seriously wrong. The game's instructions are pretty poorly translated and are probably worth reading through two or three times. There's a Zoom function available during racing which is supposed to alter your view but seems to do hardly anything at all, certainly nothing useful.

The indicator lights are situated right under your driver's hands, so they're completely obscured unless you're turning a corner. Someone ought, perhaps, to have pointed out that screeching around a corner at 190mph perhaps isn't the best time to check if

the graphics, it's got the speed, it's got the sound (which is so often a disappointment in race games), and most of all it's massive fun to play. You really can see an improvement in your driving after many hours of practice, and there's always the hope that eventually you may crack the championship. There's no doubt about it, *Vroom* is a top-class game with tons of careful programming behind it and gameplay which grabs you where it hurts. (Pity about the title though.)

Ed Ricketts 🗇

Vroom Ubi Soft ■ £25.99

- Incredibly smooth and nippy graphics almost have you gasping for breath.
- Not a game for the casual or undetermined player. This one needs plenty of playing.
- No fancy out-of-seat views or replays, but then it doesn't need them.
- Stonking sound effects which deserve to be routed through your hi- fi, just to annoy your neighbours.
- Choice of mouse or joystick control is a boon - one's hard and precise, the other's easy

4MIGA 91% "Cruise for a Corpse was
murderously good, The Secret
of Monkey Island sent
everyone ape, but now 'point
and click' graphic adventures

are set to undergo a

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A hostage makes a (none-to-carefully timed) dash to freedom from behind an ammunition case. The body-count indicator at the top of the screen confirms that he's made it OK. Only nine more to go and you've completed the level.



Half the action is fought through horizontallyscrolling rooms. The other half is in semi-3D as our brave hero ventures down corridors.

Also at your disposal is a Blade Weapon and a Freeze Gun that turn even the most animated or over-excited alien fiend into a sitting duck. These weapons (along with body armour and energy restorers) can be found hidden within the crates and wall-mountings that make up the interior of the crippled ship, so just keep blasting away and you'll soon be rewarded.

Actually, you can't shoot all the time. Every now and then a hostage will make a dash for freedom. Allow him to run off screen and a 'Thank you' message informs you you're a step closer to your objective. Also, the special weapons need time to recharge (not to mention your trigger finger) so pausing for breath is advisable. But apart from these minor inconveniences, it's just blast, blast, blast.

All the right stuff

As an Operation Wolf clone, Space Gun has got all the right ingredients. The action is fast and furious, stretching reflexes to the limit. The graphics are excellent, the sound effects suitably gruesome and there are loads of different alien scum to blast. If Light Phazer games are what you like, then you won't be disappointed. But there's just not enough 'real' game here to convert the uninitiated.

Neil West 1

pace

re you the proud owner of a Trojan Light Phazer? Well this is a blast-emup just for you. So sit down, dig out the Dirty Harry Ray Bans and let the evil alien hoards of 2039AD deep space make your day.

Of course, you don't strictly need a Light Phazer to play Space Gun. But the Operation Wolf-style gameplay is farcical if approached with a joystick and unconvincing (it's not really Clint Eastwood's style is it?) with a mouse. So to get the most from this game, it's standard-issue Light Phazers all round.

You play the part of a trigger-happy crew member aboard an exploratory craft, bravely going where no person has gone before. A distress signal has been received from a crippled spaceship and so (pausing only to grab your trusty Phazer, dash for the transporter room, painfully pick yourself up from the floor, go back and unplug your trusty Light Phazer, and head for the transporter room again) you mount your heroic rescue attempt.

The crew of the crippled ship have been taken hostage by a gang of extra-terrestrial hard nuts. So you must explore (well, allow yourself to be led down) all the corridors and passages of the ship, shoot all the aliens, allow the hostages to run for safety and then make good your escape.

Going Solo?

Two players can join the action together (although only one of you can brandish a Phazer) and the combined fire-power enables you to get a lot further through the game than



in a one-player romp. Yes, the aliens are tough. Very tough. So unless you are Clint Eastwood, you'll have to rely on your special weapons and a steady flow of power-ups if you're going to make much solo progress.

Your basic weapon is a standard Han Solo-issue blaster. It will kill anything, eventually. But diligently keeping an unfortunate alien in your sights often allows his mates to sneak round the side and plant one on you. So you've got a choice - either keep spraying the entire screen with a liberal helping of photon death, or concentrate on grabbing yourself some porkier military hardware.

You start off with two extra weapons: a flame-thrower (usually packing a short, sharp shock to persuade any untoward alien to mend his ways) and a grenade launcher that will send an alien in so many different ways that any thoughts of mending anything can be scrapped.

Doesn't look very good out there does it? There's an eightlimbed alien fiend brandishing his latest manicure, a bloodsucking, err 'blood sucker' firmly attached to your visor. And to top it all it's raining liquidised alien remains

Space Gun Ocean ■ £25.99

- · Alien (the film)-esque monsters and backdrops set the theme for your deep-space rescue attempt.
- Solid blasting action all the way.
- The two-player action is a nice touch, but it's easy to get confused as to whose cursor belongs to who.
- Hasn't this genre of game got boring yet? There's nothing here for anyone other than the real Light Phazer fans.



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CALLERS WELCOME

Now let the game commence...

LURE OF THE TEMPTRESS

...I can resist everything

except temptation...

Oscar Wilde









Few software houses can claim that they have influence over corporate giants. But Core Design BIG THING managed to get Jaguar to

wait for the game before releasing the real car. Now there's power for ya.

ast month saw Jaguar, one of Britain's finest car manufacturers, release their newest car, the Jaguar XJ220. It's touted as the fastest production car ever to grace the British roads, a fact that you're likely to be able to confirm, should you ever be lucky enough to see one. As with most top-end racers, Jaguar aren't likely to be making many XJ220s, so your chances are slim. However, all you budding racing drivers still have a chance to drive one of these amazing cars. The sleek silver beauty is the basis for Core Design's first licensed game, and from what we have seen, it is set to be a cracker.

Jaguar XJ220 the game, is being developed by Mac Avery and the graphics are the work of Jason Gee, both of whom are hardened Core Design developers. Together, they formed the team responsible for the best helicopter sim yet to grace the Amiga, A37 Thunderhawk, and so far they've proved to be a winning formula.

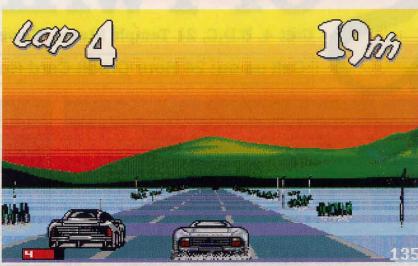
Cashing in and crashing out

So what is the game really about? Well, you, as a racing driver, and as a sort of financial boffin, have to ensure the team's continuing profitability. You have to compete in as many races as possible because the higher up the field you finish, the more money you get. As you'd expect, there are lots of costly items to spend your money on.

Normally no-one can drive round a whole race without having a little shunt or two, regardless of whose fault it was, and these are always going to cost you money. Quite a lot of your newly-received revenue automatically disappears (much like a Maxwell pension fund) when the garage mechanics tell you how much repair work needs doing. You also have to travel around the place, competing in races in far-flung locations. The thing is transporting your crew to the various venues is almost as expensive as crashing your prize £400,000 Jaguar into a brick wall.

Now you know the basic plot, the burning question is "What's it really like?". Well to be honest with you, it's pretty bloomin' good. It is easily comparable to Gremlin's recent racing release, Lotus Turbo Challenge 2, but Core designed it to be much better. In reality it does achieve this in certain areas, and in other regions it doesn't quite make the grade. The races take place over 12 countries, and the weather effects are a lot more varied than those to be found in Lotus 2.

In XJ220 you may suddenly come across wet leaves and other effects on the road which



At a hundred-odd miles an hour, it's no time to discover that your priceless Jag doesn't have snow tyres fitted. Road surfaces are a constant trial in Core's new Lotus-challenging race game.

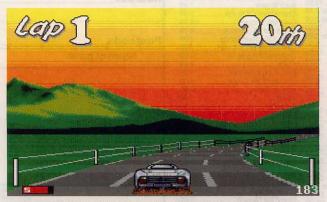
aguar XJ

Core Design Expected: May



Jaguar XJ 220 is a winding nightmare of a racing game that pitches you against the toughest tracks you've seen since Lotus Turbo Challenge 2.

slow your progress and totally mess up your handling. In normal situations, the handling of the car is very smooth, the 3D-effect is perfect, but Jaguar's strongest point is its breakneck speed. The car does 212mph, and when you are racing it really feels like it. The sheer speed of the game is outstanding and the braking is firm and responsive too. And as you would expect nowadays from a game of this genre, the car has brake lights. But they don't just simply light up - they vary in brightness,



Hurtle around the track too fast and you'll find yourself drifting towards the picket fences that rush by at rate of knots. Hang on tight!





Charging your way to the front, you may spot a rather crestfallen Lotus tootling along behind.

depending on how hard you are actually braking at the time.

Charging through the pack

The sound is also very impressive, and it includes a nifty little tune which plays away in the background, complimenting the roar of the mighty V12 engine. During the race you will pass many other vehicles, provided you haven't crashed or run our of money. These such noteworthy cars Lambourghinis and Ferraris, and you may even catch a glimpse of one of the rarest Porsches around - the inimitable 959.

Jaguar XJ220 was designed to start where Lotus 2 and so many other car games before it left off. Although there isn't anything really original about the racing aspects of the game, the financial side of things looks as if it might add a certain much-needed spice to what may otherwise become a worn-out genre. If you're looking for something completely new and original, you probably won't find it in Jaguar XJ220, but who knows? The coding is still in progress and new things are being added every day. By the time we get to do a full review (which should be in time for next issue), things could be very different.





Life must be pretty tough when even the dead are out to get you. But fling a spring at the zombie and he's knocked into oblivion once more



Titus escapes on his flying carpet from one nasty situation, just to find an Arab, hiding in a pot and firing spears at him.



Caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. Something tells me Titus is soon gonna be meeting his maker.

look on an enemy's face if you manage to pick

ONG! Mortgage rates hit a new high! BONG! Marilyn the infamous singing hamster hits the top of the pop charts! BONG! Famous reporter Foxy Fox kidnapped by Arab sheikh!

Foxy Fox, aged 23, a reporter for the popular magazine Fox and Locks, has disappeared while on the trail of a story in the Sahara desert. Although the Shah Hassan, aged 46, a regular reader of the publication and a public admirer of Foxy, denies all knowledge of the incident, it is rumoured that the Arab business man is behind her disappearance. Earlier today we spoke to Foxy's fiancé, 21-year-old Titus, who believes his betrothed is being held in the harem of the Shah. Titus will tomorrow morning be on his way to the desert to rescue his sweetheart from a life of slavery and torment in the desert heat. We all wish him the best of luck in his quest. Goodnight.

This is the scenario for the new release from Titus, aptly named Titus the Fox. The game starts in Titus' home town, which is a pretty rough place by all accounts. It seems that the only people in the streets are contract killers hired by Foxy's kidnappers to put paid to our hero's rescue attempt. Titus has to work his way through the town either by skillfully avoiding all his enemies, or by picking up various objects left around the place in highly inconvenient places, and lob them at his foes. Failing that, Titus can actually pick up an enemy to throw at a member of his own side.

Go east

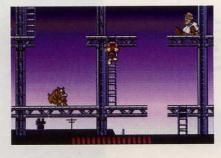
Titus' trip takes him from his home town to the eastern city of Marrakech and back again. A journey consisting of 16 levels of irritation, simply because you get so annoyed with the delicate nature of the control system. One pixel out and you miss that essential platform, or get whacked by a trashcan with a mallet. Most of the levels involve scooting past your enemies to get to the other side of the screen. You aren't given a clue of where you're meant



to be going. Instead, the screen just locks up for a few seconds when you get there, and Titus is magically transported to the next level.

Very similar in both its look and feel to Titus's previous release, The Blues Brothers, this is a platform romp around a toon-like world. Titus the Fox could have you hooked after a couple of plays, just because the central character is so incredibly cute. He's way up in the ranks along with the Kiwis, Bubs, Bobs and Robocods of this world, with his fluffy red fur and the adorable way that he crawls underneath obstacles.

What happens while playing is you fight your way through all the annoying bits, then come across a neat little feature which almost lets you forgive it of its faults. For instance the



Drunks, dogs and downright dodgy people abound in our hero's home town. But love, as always, will overcome; or more importantly, Titus has already booked the caterers for his wedding.

happened at sea.

Titus can't break out

from the pipe but, as

bozo's head pops out

if by magic, the big

of the top with no

trouble at all.

him up is well-worth taking the trouble to see, and bouncing on springy balls to leap over tall obstacles is great fun when you finally get it right. Running around the levels there are various special objects and forms of transport for you to pick up to help you on your way. There's a magic flying carpet, springs, bowling balls and a golden scooter, to name but a few. These are usually quite hard to reach but the benefits can be well worth the trouble.

Get loaded

One of the niggly things is that it takes so long to load. After every level it goes through the loading process all over again, including loading the same music and sound effects for the umpteenth time. The music fits the gameplay well, it has a nice bouncy feel, with the sound effects matching the gameplay to a tee.

Titus the Fox could have been well worth playing if it wasn't for the control system and the immense loading time. With a bit more effort on everybody's part it would have been a classic - as it stands this is just yet another cutie platform game.

Clare Hodgson 5

Titus the Fox Titus ■ £25.99

- If you thought Blues Brothers was great you'll love this.
- Cute, cute, cute, and even more cute.
- Very awkward controls, one pixel out and the fox gets it.
- Loading takes so long you're bored before vou even start the game.







A hostage makes a (none-to-carefully timed) dash to free dom from behind an ammunition case. The body-count indicator at the top of the screen confirms that he's made it OK. Only nine more to go and you've completed the level.



Half the action is fought through horizontallyscrolling rooms. The other half is in semi-3D as our brave hero ventures down corridors.

Also at your disposal is a Blade Weapon and a Freeze Gun that turn even the most animated or over-excited alien fiend into a sitting duck. These weapons (along with body armour and energy restorers) can be found hidden within the crates and wall-mountings that make up the interior of the crippled ship, so just keep blasting away and you'll soon be rewarded.

Actually, you can't shoot all the time. Every now and then a hostage will make a dash for freedom. Allow him to run off screen and a 'Thank you' message informs you you're a step closer to your objective. Also, the special weapons need time to recharge (not to mention your trigger finger) so pausing for breath is advisable. But apart from these minor inconveniences, it's just blast, blast, blast.

All the right stuff

As an Operation Wolf clone, Space Gun has got all the right ingredients. The action is fast and furious, stretching reflexes to the limit. The graphics are excellent, the sound effects suitably gruesome and there are loads of different alien scum to blast. If Light Phazer games are what you like, then you won't be disappointed. But there's just not enough 'real' game here to convert the uninitiated.

Neil West 5

pace

re you the proud owner of a Trojan Light Phazer? Well this is a blast-emup just for you. So sit down, dig out the Dirty Harry Ray Bans and let the evil alien hoards of 2039AD deep space make your day.

Of course, you don't strictly need a Light Phazer to play Space Gun. But the Operation Wolf-style gameplay is farcical if approached with a joystick and unconvincing (it's not really Clint Eastwood's style is it?) with a mouse. So to get the most from this game, it's standard-issue Light Phazers all round.

You play the part of a trigger-happy crew member aboard an exploratory craft, bravely going where no person has gone before. A distress signal has been received from a crippled spaceship and so (pausing only to grab your trusty Phazer, dash for the transporter room, painfully pick yourself up from the floor, go back and unplug your trusty Light Phazer, and head for the transporter room again) you mount your heroic rescue attempt.

The crew of the crippled ship have been taken hostage by a gang of extra-terrestrial hard nuts. So you must explore (well, allow vourself to be led down) all the corridors and passages of the ship, shoot all the aliens, allow the hostages to run for safety and then make good your escape.

Going Solo?

Two players can join the action together (although only one of you can brandish a Phazer) and the combined fire-power enables you to get a lot further through the game than



in a one-player romp. Yes, the aliens are tough. Very tough. So unless you are Clint Eastwood, you'll have to rely on your special weapons and a steady flow of power-ups if you're going to make much solo progress.

Your basic weapon is a standard Han Solo-issue blaster. It will kill anything, eventually. But diligently keeping an unfortunate alien in your sights often allows his mates to sneak round the side and plant one on you. So you've got a choice - either keep spraying the entire screen with a liberal helping of photon death, or concentrate on grabbing yourself some porkier military hardware.

You start off with two extra weapons: a flame-thrower (usually packing a short, sharp shock to persuade any untoward alien to mend his ways) and a grenade launcher that will send an alien in so many different ways that any thoughts of mending anything can be scrapped.

Doesn't look very good out there does it? There's an eightlimbed alien fiend brandishing his latest manicure, a bloodsucking, err 'blood sucker' firmly attached to your visor. And to top it all it's raining liquidised alien remains

Space Gun Ocean **E** £25.99

- Alien (the film)-esque monsters and backdrops set the theme for your deep-space rescue attempt.
- Solid blasting action all the way.
- The two-player action is a nice touch, but it's easy to get confused as to whose cursor belongs to who.
- Hasn't this genre of game got boring yet? There's nothing here for anyone other than the real Light Phazer fans.



LLENNIUM PUTS THE WORLD IN YOUR HANDS



GLOBAL EFFECT



Build power sources to supply and expand your cities



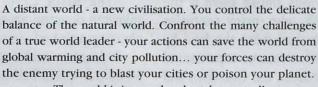
Survey for natural resources and seismic stability



Build military bases for offensive and defensive action.



Plant forests and parklands to counter world pollution.



The world is in your hands - take control!

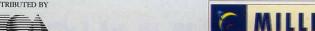


Check for pollution, CO2 and



Constantly monitor the state of your planet.

*Amiga screen shots © Millennium 1992





The "Black Crypt" ™ positively oozes with twenty five of the most hideous and despicably cunning monsters.

They await you in a dozen plague-ridden interconnecting dungeons, on 20 spell binding levels.

The most heinous among them is the Dark Lord Estoroth, who, many centuries ago, had been banished from the land by four Guardians with awesome supernatural powers. In the process, the Guardians and their weaponry had been lost.

Now Estoroth is back, seeking a ghastly

revenge against a defenceless people.

Your task is to lead an intrepid band of adventurers to retrieve the mystical artifacts that may hold the power of the four Guardians and provide your only chance of saving the world from evil.

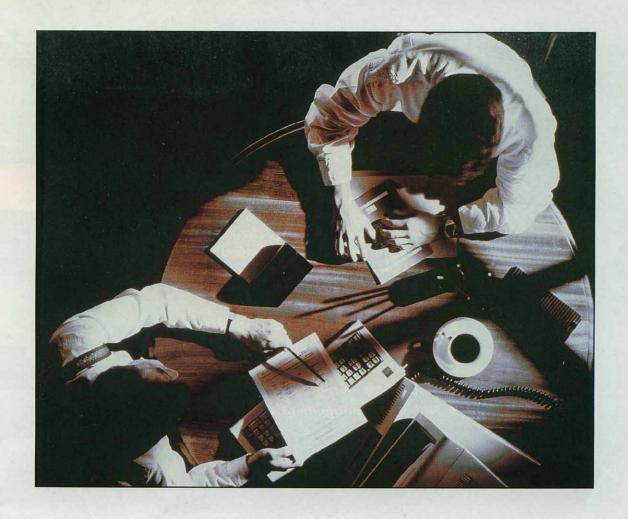
The "Black Crypt" is the most electrifying fully animated dungeon adventure, with exceptionally detailed rotating point-of-view perspective.

It features real-time combat and spell-casting, all in 64 colour extra half-brite Amiga graphics.

But be warned, you enter this breeding ground of evil at your own peril. And hopefully not on a full stomach.

EL CTR ONIC ARTS

"It's clear from this evidence...

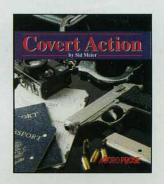


...that we should be playing Sid Meier's Covert Action."

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Race your Jaguar XJ220 against other super cars including Ferraris, Porsches and Lamborghinis over thirty six circuits through twelve different countries. Speed through variable weather conditions whilst tackling waterfalls, tunnels, cliffs, bridges and mountain passes.

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- One or two-player split-screen option.
- Joystick or mouse control.
- Map editor Create your own circuits.
- Financial Management strategy.

Willyou run out of bottle before throttle?













Available on Atari ST and Commodore Amiga (both 1 Meg only).

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Screen shots taken from **Amiga version**







h, Dungeons and Dragons. Those far distant days before you bought an Amiga, that saw you and some mates sitting around a table and *becoming*, actually *becoming*, Arglip the gnarly old gnome, or Silmaril the wise old mage, or even Irontop, the strong (but oh so stupid) fighting dwarf. The die rolls, the maps that went all over the floor, the books of lore and the beastiaries. What fun. Until, that is, you bought an Amiga.

Then you were able to die without the mapping, the books and the die rolling. There was Eye of the Beholder or Dungeon Master. There was interacting with other characters. There was an immense lack of finicky, irritating statistics. Well someone should have told



A pub – now that looks like a pleasant place to rest and recuperate. Just follow the arrow and the door opens for you. On the other hand, pubs often contain rather rough sorts.

TSR and SSI (a company that can produce far better than this heap of papergame-to-Amiga quick conversion) all about that.

Savage Frontier comes with all the normal dross about "The adventure you've been waiting for is at hand" (it's bloody obviously not here), "spectacular", "foreboding lands" and "all new wilderness style". It isn't any of this. If it was, then you wouldn't have to keep referring to the manual, whoops, "Journal" in order to discover what the NPCs are saying to you. You wouldn't have to sit and watch sad, poor, clunky, blocky, embarrassing graphics. And you wouldn't have to make do with horrible images of the characters you are supposed to be portraying.

Sad frontier

The plot is loose and predictable; you have to defeat some dark invaders by discovering a few magical items. So there's nothing to

That's one of the blighters out of the way. You can tell by the huge, clunky skull icon amidst all the other clunky character icons in the scene.



Gateway to the Savage Frontier



Creating your characters even means altering the way they look. Well, it means fiddling with some fairly sad-poor icons.

detract the terminally statistically-retentive among you from getting a bus-spotter's delight from the game.

You begin despairingly enough, by building your party of up to six characters all of whom are firmly in the D&D mould. Once again there are no surprises to be had in this section of the game. You get to choose names, races, abilities and even the way the tiny clunky icons representing your crew will look. Frankly many PD icon editors enable you to do a better job. Once the six have been set up with suitably runic names and outlandish attributes, and the individual characters have been added into the party (you can also choose from the ready-saved characters) it's time for the off. Make sure that you encamp in order to get your magic users to learn some spells and your warriors to ready weapons. Save the game and you're adventuring.

And from here on in the whole thing nose dives into the kind of predictable, uninspiring tedium that will make D&Ders feel incredibly comfortable but will not inspire newcomers into the genre.

Despite all this well-rounded and not the least bit irritated by the almost criminal underuse of the Amiga's sound and graphics abilities, criticism, there are a few good points in favour of the game.

What an atmosphere

The party movement around towns and forest is swift (why they didn't bother with a compass but instead lobbed in map references is beyond me – something to do with lack of ability to program graphics perhaps?). You use the mouse pointer to drag your party around place in search of fights and gems. However, the lack of any in-game music or sound makes for little atmosphere building and no real desire to interact.

Generally, a good conversion from the paper game to the PC and then to the Amiga. There's nothing for the newcomer to get excited about and nothing for the seasoned adventurer to feel the least bit worried over. Average, average, average dullness.

Tim Smith ®

RESTING UP A WHILE...

Resting is one of the most pleasurable experiences in the game. You get to see a pleasant graphic of a tree and a campsite – even if you



decide to make camp inside a house or on a street corner (that tree won't leave you alone it seems). And while resting you get to memorise or scribe scrolls, fix weapons and even people, have a quick

look at your multitude of statistics and even save the game; an action which the manual says you have to do every hour or else the game might crash on you!

Learning spells is simple enough. Click on the magic user you wish to imbue with a little more power, click on memorise and then choose from the available spells. Then just set the amount of rest time and Elpric is your Chaotic-neutral Mage/Fighter/Thief/Cleric.

Gateway SSI/TSR ■ £30.99

- Adheres almost slavishly to the TSR papergame standard of stats and lore.
- You can both alter and train character during the game.
- Quick combat option to avoid spending too much time with the crushingly awful icon battle graphics.
- There are no worries about being caught up in the plot.
- Vile under use of the Amiga. Basically a straight PC port over.





he story so far; er, well, actually, it's a little bit complicated. Let's just say there were five other Ultima games (set in the land of Britannia, an exciting place full of trees and walls), lots of exciting things happened in them, and now here we are at the sixth exciting episode. An episode in which you, playing you, are called back to the land of Britannia by Lord British (the big cheese) to rid it of gargovles. They've apparently been coming up through the sewers and no amount of Flash gets rid of them, so only you (aided by several other stout fellows) can shift them.

As ever the game's viewed from above and slightly off-centre, so there's a 3D-ish look to things. Your party is controlled as a group, simply by clicking in the direction you



Character creation is like playing Scruples, only not. You're asked moral questions and then the crone pours the appropriate solution in a drink, Which endows you with those virtues.

want them to walk. Objects can be acquired and used, signs read, people talked to and fought, and all the other things done without which an adventure wouldn't be an adventure.

What does 'Ultima' mean anyway?

Britannia's a big place and there's an embarrassingly huge number of objects lying about. Most people are only too happy for you to walk into their houses, have a good look round and nick all their stuff - in fact they'll even talk to you while you're gaily pillaging their homes. Ask them nicely and they might join up, or just chat to them generally about what's going on and you may learn some interesting stuff. With the help mode on, words they'll respond to further are highlighted in red whenever they're spoken - bit of a giveaway, this.

Magic is a big deal too and the manual enthusiastically wibbles on about which ingredients are needed for what spell and what you should be wearing to cast it, etc etc. In fact spell casting's a real piece of cake - just click on the Cast icon, choose a spell, and, providing you've got the right ingredients, whoomph! there it is.

Moongates can be generated using the Orb of the Moon and they're dead handy for getting about, acting like teleporters around Britannia. The trouble is you never know just where vou'll end up.





Needs 1 meg of memory

he False Pro

There's nothing like a good adventure game to pass away endless disk swaps.

Talking to someone

brings up their por-

appropriate descrip-

tousled-haired rough-

royster-doyster" and

so on). Only certain

so you can spend

and SPOON before

the right one.

you finally hit upon

words are recognised,

hours entering things

like LAKE, HAIRDRYER

tion ("You see a

and-ready ruddy

trait and an

90 Shawing Rael

Yes. All this would be fine and dandy if it weren't for one thing: disks. Ultima 6 gets through disks like the Windsors get through marriages. Firstly, you have to install the game either onto hard disk or four floppies, and this process takes at least 20 minutes of very tedious disk swapping. Then, during the game, virtually every time you move a character a new landscape has to be loaded an there's another disk access. Click 'Talk To' and you need to change disks. Click 'Use' and you often need to change disks. Click flippin' anything and you need to change disks

In fact there's so much disk swapping and accessing (particularly on single drive systems) that the game slows down to a crawl and you dread doing anything just in case it provokes a "Please insert Portrait disk" prompt. It's not as if the graphics and music are so awe-inspiring that they warrant this sort of boredom; yeah, they're pleasant enough, but a little dated, and very slow.

Hmmm

Despite its relatively sophisticated exterior, Ultima 6 has its roots way back in the games of the early Eighties. Simplify the graphics and sound and you're left with little more than any type-in listing of that period could offer you. It seems odd that nowadays, with the polish and user-friendliness of games such as The Secret of Monkey Island and Another World about, the anachronistic and unfriendly Ultima series should still be so popular.

Undoubtedly there is a lot for you to see and do, but there's virtually nothing to reward the casual player. Dedication is certainly the key to enjoying Ultima 6, but not least because of the terrible disk accessing/swapping problem. If you've followed the rest of the series then you may as well go the whole hog and get this latest instalment, but don't go expecting an easy time of it.

If Origin aren't careful the Ultima series could well share the same fate as the Infocom games: obstinately sticking to a frankly outdated formula simply for the hell of it, while progress and the games-buying public moves on to newer and greater things. In corporea sans ultima propio, as they say.

Ed Ricketts ®

Ultima VI Mindscape ■ £30.99

- If you've got a hard drive, you're sorted. If you haven't, and particularly if you've only got one drive, disk-swapping had better be high on your list of hobbies.
- Big playing area and lots to uncover.
- You could probably draw your own graphics in the time it takes for the display to update.
- Ancient er, I mean traditional style of gameplay may not suit those weaned on modern adventures.
- Chirpy tunes which will drive you crazy after your 43rd disk swap.







PLAYER disk any drive. Good afternoon,

APRIL ISSUE DUT NOW!

IEWE

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D/Generation, a malevolent organism that uses virtual reality to

disguise itself, has taken over. And it is your task to destroy it.

But first, you must find a way to stay alive. Then, as your understanding of this evil force increases, you can take the fight to the enemy. The tools you have are sparse. Little more than ingenuity and determination.

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Bomberman, eh? Sounds rather like a game called Mighty Bombjack. Does it involve planting bombs and running away? Let's see. Well, whaddaya know? You have to drop bombs, run away, hide in a corner and watch your bombs destroy walls and cute little odd-shaped nasties with toothy grins that look like they've escaped from Bubble Bobble. It all looks dead simple and not at all original, two factors which don't generally add up to a spiffy game. But (but! But!) Dyna Blaster /Bomberman will get its hooks in you and end up transforming best buddies into enemies.

Two's company

There are two addictive games here because the one-player game is significantly different from the multi-player version. Whether you prefer to battle it out on your own or make playing into a social event, this is a winner.

The one-player game gives you a larger, vertically-scrolling game area and nastier bad-



I'm just about to get that blue glove puppet. Bomb as many walls as possible because one of them is covering up your exit.

dies. To get from one level to another you have to find your exit and spin through it once you've cleared the screen of baddies using the power-ups which your bombs leave behind.

With the supplied special joystick adaptor, five people can play at once. The screens aren't as big as the one-player ones so you end up with five little people running madly around a screen, leaving bombs everywhere and blowing one another up. Here the power-ups include skulls which never do the same thing twice in a row. The best bit is when you pick up a skull and you find yourself rushing around doing a particularly speedy Benny Hill impression. This can be helpful in enabling you to drop twice as many bombs as usual, but it also makes your chap more difficult to control and you'll find yourself trapped in by your own bombs. Equally frustrating is the power-



Here you see a threeplayer game in action. Player number two has already been blown to bits. As soon as those two blue blobs have been blasted, the remaining two players can concentrate on killing one another. What

It's a three-player game and everybody's rushing to get their bonuses. The skull's the best - pick it up and you could find yourself running around the screen at three times your usual speed! Then again, you could suddenly start to move along at a snail's pace or find yourself leaving a trail of bombs wherever you go. The latter is particularly dangerous but impossible to avoid.



Dyna Blaster/ Bomberman

If you go down to the bottom of the garden today, you're in for a big surprise.
Especially, if you're a particularly nasty sort of sphere with two eyes. They really do look rather stunned.
Yep, it looks like Legoman has made the pretty garden safe for us all..



up which lets you drop three bombs at once. Unless there's a clear way out, you're a goner.

In the multi-player game you get a choice of battle lengths, so the winner can be the person who wins the first game or the first person up to two, three, four or five wins. With anything more than three of you on screen it becomes a matter of duty to blow up at least one of your opponents. This will put them out of the game until the next level, plus make them pretty irritated. Another way to bug people is to wait until their bombs explode and then run and get the power-ups before they do.

All aboard for Legoland

There are some cutesie opening pics but the main game graphics are somewhat basic. *Dyna Blaster* is clear and simple, there's a lot happening on screen and if the graphics were any fancier it would just be far too cluttered.

There's no colour-clash, you can see exactly what's going on and the sprites are beaut, especially the characters who look like Lego people. Soundwise the fairground tinkly tune can get annoying, but if it gets to you simply turn it down. Mind you, if you do that, you'll miss out on some ace explosions.

Dyna Blaster/Bomberman is brilliant fun and with 64 levels you'll be playing for quite some time. You'll know immediately if this is your kind of game, so if it sounds like fun then go and buy it. If it sounds too cute by half and you think you've done it all before then give it a miss. But remember, it's your loss.

Linda Barker ®

Dyna Blaster/Bomberman Ubi Soft ■ £30.99

- Simple, colourful graphics. No clash and no clutter.
- The lower the volume, the better.
- Addictive gameplay that'll have you up half the night without realising it.
- Fun-filled multi-player mode.





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Dracula, being an out-of-the-ordinary sort of guy, wants not just one but 13 girlies by his side. And he still has time to go out at night and bite people in the neck. He may be dead but that doesn't stop him having a good time.

Brides of Dracula

ampires have a tough old time of it just think of their social life. Take Dracula, for instance. Drac is getting rather lonely in his old age and so decides to go out and get himself a wife. Or two. Or 13. Luckily there's a village just down the road from his castle with literally hundreds of scantily-clad girlies swanning around in a rather vague way, so Drac sets out to bag himself some of this rampant tottie. To rid themselves of the menace of Drac, the villagers call in Van Helsing, a vampire hunter who has probably had more stakes than you've had, er, steaks.

This is a game for one or two players, one human against the Amiga or two playing simultaneously. Each player takes the role of Drac or Van Helsing, who have specific goals. Drac's is to find, bite and lead back to his castle 13 glorious gals. Van Helsing, meanwhile, is desperately searching for 13 vital pieces of equipment he needs to kill Drac: stuff like silver bullets, a prayer-book and of course a piece of toast.

This village is cursed

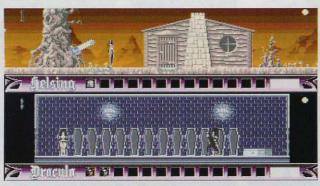
The screen is split into two different horizontally-scrolling sections, one for each player. The playing area is made up of five sections, including the village and Drac's castle, around which are scattered Helsing's stuff and Drac's babes. Van Helsing (who jumps and strides around like a man who's just received a huge grant from the Ministry of Silly Walks) has to take each object back to his house one at a time, and Drac can only have one girl in tow at once, so there's a lot of toing and froing.

Other characters in the game affect Drac and Helsing in different ways. The other

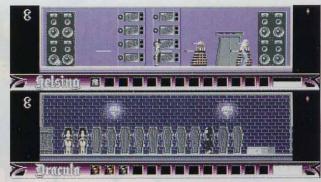
vampire hunters and the priest, for example, all have a go at Drac, while Drac's butler Riff Raff (sound at all familiar?), the ghouls in the graveyard and the devil dogs all harm Van Helsing. Fortunately, though, retaliation is possible for both players. There are certain things, like rats and dripping acid, that hurt regardless, and these need to be avoided with some nifty jumping.

Not much at stake

Brides of Dracula is a simple little game with an old-fashioned feel to it – it may remind you of the old 8-bit games Skool Daze and The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Whichever player you choose it's not much of a problem to complete the task; the playing area's small, and if you really get stuck, you can sit back and watch the Amiga take on both roles. The split screen's a nice idea, particularly when you realise with a shock you're just about to encounter your enemy – and sure enough, there he is on the same screen.



Just so it's not all so incredibly easy that you can do it in one day (though it is), at various points you find these chainsaws lurking about in mid-air. They only allow one player through, so the other side has to find another way round it, losing energy, patience and self-respect in the process.



Helsing wanders into what appears to be a quiet village house and ends up (one trip via the Twilight Zone later) in the Daleks' front room – who, are their usual happy selves and greet him with a friendly "Annihilate!".



"Look, you're not coming on my boat unless that woman puts more clothes on. Company policy, I'm afraid." Contrary to popular belief, Charon the Ferryman is very choosy about who he ferries across the Styx.

There's one very frustrating point about the game. When you want to go up/down stairs, you need to position yourself exactly at the right spot at the head of the stairs and press Fire and Up simultaneously to get you onto the right screen 'plane'. If you're even a few pixels out, the game won't recognise it, forcing you to change position and try again. It's not a catastrophic bug, just intensely annoying and time-wasting.

You won't find anything here to amaze you, either in the graphics (fair, with some good coloured skies), the sound (spot effects and not very good ones) or the gameplay (too easy), but *Brides of Dracula* could keep you interested for a day or two. But then, so can watching paint dry, at a push.

Ed Ricketts 5

Brides of Dracula Gonzo Games ■ £25.99

- The rather small playing area and easy tasks mean you won't find much of a long-term challenge here.
- Split-screen is a good idea, though it makes it too easy to cheat.
- May well bring the tears of nostalgia flooding back.
- Having two characters in effect means having two games.
- The frustrating positioning faults slows things down.



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Don't smash the icons

or you'll be in big trouble!

depends on the situation!

Screen shots on Amiga

programmed explosions.

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friend's best recorded races with the original buddy-race feature. ■ The 3D graphics are legendary, the re-played crashes are awesome and the handling couldn't be more realistic.

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AMIGA SCREENSHOTS

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pace eh? Dontcha love it? There's the space time curve to play with, strange new worlds to visit and weird phenomena to investigate. Most of all there are aliens oozing from the chaos zone for you to splatter. Cue the space marines, the meanest and moodiest bunch ever to don armour and pose in front of the mirror with their weapons. Space Crusade is based on the board-game of the same name. It's a war-game based on bugeyed monster bashing and male bonding. Up to three players control small bands of marines as they clump around spaceships trying not to get too killed as they follow mission orders.

Mission highly unlikely

Your first step is to choose one of three marine chapters and assign weapons. The most important bloke is your commander, who is so tough he leaves his helmet at home. He gets the praise and career progression at the end of it all, so look after him. Luckily he's got more life points than anyone else. Along with him you get five grunts. After picking up your shooters and extras it's time for the main event. There are over 20 missions, each has a main objective; some object to recover or an extra big alien to deal with. There's one thing they do all have in common though - lots of shooting. In the first few games you're likely to get embarrassingly massacred; you'll find even the easiest mission is no push-over.

Taking turns

The main screen is an overhead view of the playing area divided into squares and everything is mouse and icon controlled. The game is split into turns. You can move and fire the marines under your control in any order you like, until they've all had a bash. Then click on the next player icon and control switches to the other marine chapter or the alien scum. Nothing is in real time so you can ponder moves as long as you like. You need to make good use of ranged weapons and position your men carefully to make it. If one of your men buys the farm then all that's left is a pair of over-size boots gently smoking.

All your favourite aliens are here – space orcs, soul suckers and the lumbering metal dreadnoughts. After selecting a target some LEDs do a spot of dice rolling to decide whether it's a hit or a miss. The enemy also gets to play 'alien events' – these range from trivial things like double attacks to devastating booby traps that wipe out half your men. No amount of planning can deal with these and they add an often infuriating random element



Depending on your commander's rank you get to pick one or more 'orders' to give to your chaps. The ability to fire twice in a round or whatever. These can only be used once a mission so time it well.

Details of the currently highlighted marine bod – weapon carried and life points.

Your window on the world, the playing area is 40 squares square and it takes a good few moves to cross. You can scroll anywhere on it at the click of the mouse button.

Marines are controlled by clicking on the control panel icons. Move, fire, use special equipment and run like hell. Er, just kidding. These guys never run; I think it must be the boots.



Your heroes – click on these or directly on the main window to select a marine. Then on the control panel icon to control their actions. Mission map, the whole caboodle. Your chaps, and any aliens you know are about, appear here as little dots.

Space Crusade



The tools of the trade. There's your standard bolter which spits explosive bullets, but effective use of the heavy weapons is crucial..



Whenever there's some rough stuff the view changes to a 3D isometric one showing the action. Everyone kneels as they fire for some reason. Here's the plasma gun in action.

to the game. Complete a mission and its home for tea and medals and the chance to do it all again. The missions take a while to complete and there are plenty of them. Unfortunately they all tend to blur into similar shoot-outs.

It's fun, not fast-paced joystick-bashing fun, but more your thoughtful, war-gamey, tactical move-type, with some mindless blasting thrown in. Issuing orders to each marine in turn can get tedious, and the tide of play can change suddenly due to a lucky or unlucky roll of the LEDs. What holds it back is the simplistic origins of the board-game. Adrenaline addicts will have to look elsewhere as will fuddy-duddy war-game rule junkies. If you like to take your aliens at a more thoughtful and simple pace it's a good outing all round.

Chris Lloyd @

Space Crusade Gremlin ■ £25.99

- Easy to get into with a simple control system, looks good too.
- Extra human players adds a competitive edge although it all slows down.
- All the missions are pretty similar.
- Lacks the real-time rush of first-person roleplayer games like Eye of the Beholder and the depth of rules in the Ultima series.





ast back your mind to circa 1988, when a brand new style of role-playing adventure game appeared on the scene. The three dimensional views of the caverns, coupled with the ability to control a four-man team using weaponry and magic to battle the foe made it one of the most influential adventure games ever to appear. It even spawned a whole new genre in computer gaming. That game was Dungeon Master.

Four years on, the scene has thrown up many exciting twists on the original theme (not least in the shape of SSI's Eve of the Beholder) and now Electronic Arts are trying their hand at the DM style quest.

Once more unto the breach

The story is based around the mystical land of Astera, which has been tyrannised by an evil cleric named Estoroth Paingiver. The people of Astera banished Estoroth for his despicable acts, but he returned a year later with a demonic army to try and bring the realm to its knees. Fortunately, the people of Astera managed to trap the cleric in another dimension, saving the people from his evil plans. Unfortunately, a warp between Astera and the alternate dimension has begun to open. Four more warriors must be sent through to Estoroth's dungeons to defeat him and seal the rift forever.

This is where the game starts. You control the four man party in their quest through the various levels of the dungeons, which contain many puzzles and creatures to overcome. Your party comprises of a member from the four main guilds of Astera: a warrior, a cleric, a magic user and a druid. Each member has particular skills which are required for the quest the warrior has good battle skills, while the other members have access to their own distinct branches of magical spells.

The gameplay is very much in the style of Dungeon Master. The characters are displayed as four panels at the bottom of the screen, each with their own strength level, attributes and items held in their hands. On the right of the screen is a panel showing any messages, with the movement controls and disk commands underneath. The rest of the display is taken up with the 3D display, which shows characters, objects and scenery in the immediate vicinity.

All four characters have fighting abilities, that are activated by placing a weapon in their 'action hand' and clicking on the character's

This rather grotesque chap is a little on the tough side. Two members of the brave party have already felt the power of his wrath.



Needs 1 meg of memory



Oh no! A flying wotsit thingy! A few thrashes of some suitably heavy weaponry should make it behave though.

portrait. The three magical characters can cast spells from their own spell books, the only limitation being that they can only cast spells that they have learned. Learning a spell depends on a character's experience level, and is carried out by finding the required spell in a book and clicking on its name. Spells can also be cast from scrolls that are found along the way, but these can only be used a certain amount of times before the scroll is useless.

The visual arrangement of Black Crypt combined with the movement and manipulation of objects makes the game extremely similar in appearance to DM. This wouldn't be too bad if there was something in the way of more complex puzzle-solving to carry out, or maybe even a new way of battling any creature along the way. Unfortunately, Black Crypt doesn't really offer you anything new in this arena. Sure enough, the graphics are nice and there are a lot of beasts to fight and levels to beat, but all of these elements don't really make any significant advances in the field of roleplaying adventures.

Admittedly something like Eye of the Beholder is more expensive, but when you consider the fact that there is a lot more depth and atmosphere to the actual gameplay, that extra dosh could make all the difference two



By using a Wizard Sight spell, the Magic User can call up a map to show the rest of the party their position in the current dungeon.

weeks into playing the game. The problem with Black Crypt is that none of the puzzles you come across hold any real surprises. Where is the creepiness as you hear an enemy storming around the corner? Where are the headaches as you work out the right way to breach a chasm? Not here, I'm afraid. In fact you're more likely to get bored of the quest because you've seen it all before.

Maff Evans 5

Déjà-vu?

Black Crypt Electronic Arts # £25.99

- The characters and backdrops have been nicely drawn and the animated scenery adds a nice touch.
- There is little in the way of sound effects, which lets the atmosphere slip a little.
- The control method and character interaction is a little too similar to Dungeon Master.
- A competent role-playing game which just isn't really innovative enough to provide a sufficiently new challenge.

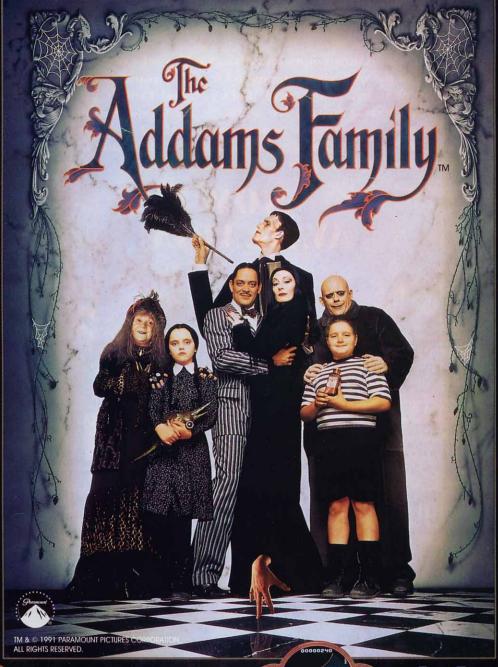




A bit of armament is always useful when battling evil demons, but a wooden shield isn't the strongest of implements available.

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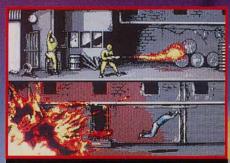


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hess Champion is 'serious' chess, and it plays one of the meanest games that you will come across. If you liked Battle Chess's humour and animation then Chess Champion probably isn't going to find itself in your all-time classic collection. But if you're just looking for a cracking game of chess against your Amiga, you can't do a lot better than this.

The game is compiled onto one disk which saves disk swapping, and the loading time is quite quick. It's when you get into the game that things start to slow down. The computer-player's intelligence can take an awfully long time to reach a decision on its next move,

Chess Champion



The conventional way to play chess on computer: the easilydeciphered (but ultimately bland), two-dimensional Chess Champion board. And guess what. It's winning. which can make playing a bit stilted. The 3D perspective makes the positions of pieces at the back of the board quite hard to see, but adds a little realism. There's also a 2D mode which is a bit clearer, but like its 3D counterpart, the colours are a bit bland and boring. Moving pieces around is easy – you just drag them to their new positions with the mouse, though the screen update becomes extremely jerky while you do this.

In all, a Spartan chess game Kochnoi could be proud of, but not for the faint-hearted. Ideal for learners and enthusiasts of chess, but prepare for a few sound beatings.



- Takes a long time to decide on its moves.
- Plays a tough, ruthless game.
- Simple graphics, and simpler sound effects.
- If you're not bothered about style and you want to learn by example – this is for you.



Chess Champion's more interesting 3D display is workable, but it can get a bit confusing when there are a large number of pieces, one behind the other. It still wins an awful lot, though.

R2 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 H5-H7 H7-H11 R5-H7 H7-H11 R5-H7 H7-H11 R5-H7 H7-H11 1... 4

Backgammon

Oxford Softworks ■ £19.99

If a stroppy looking geezer comes up to you and challenges you to a game of Backgammon, you'll wish you'd played this first.

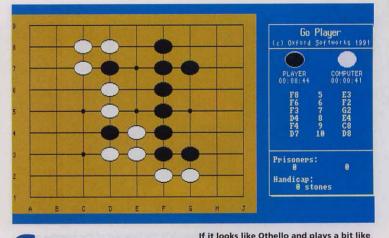
If you've ever been accosted by a Backgammon player in a seedy taverna in Greece, you'll know that this game is generally one to avoid, especially if you're playing for cash. A mystery to many, and an addiction for the few, *Backgammon* is perhaps the oldest way to separate a fool from his money.

Oxford Softworks' *Backgammon Royale* gives you the opportunity to learn before you get burned, and it plays an aggressive game. You play against imaginary players, all of whom have rather twee pseudo-Greek names like San Serif. Their rating affects how much thought they put into their moves, but if you've got your wits about you it's quite easy to beat everyone except the ex-world champion.

The graphics are as simplistic as the other two Oxford Softworks games on review this month, and there's no sound at all. Luckily, neither of these factors

affect the playability. *Backgammon Royale* is rather good fun, but that may be because it was easier to beat than the others. It's good for honing your skills before going on holiday to the Med.

(erdic) 67%



Go

draughts, it must be time to Go.

Oxford Softworks ■ £19.99

The Amiga version of the classic Chinese game which features Atari as one of its moves. Basically, it's a chequer-board game for two players, where the aim is to encircle your opponent's pieces with your own. It's a bit similar to Othello, but slightly more difficult. You'll need all your tactical skills working at their best to defeat even the lowest-level opponent.

The display is simplistic, featuring one of three different-sized boards – the largest one being the most difficult to conquer. The counters are circles coloured black (for your side) or white (for your opponent). You place them on the board by clicking the mouse over the grid-lines. Once placed, the computer has a quick think and then places its own counter.

The game is reasonably fast-paced, and the computer doesn't spend too long pondering over its moves, which is a boon. Each computer move is accompanied by

a world-beating beep, which you can (and probably will) turn off. It's all great fun if you're an avid Go player and you have no-one to play against, but it's not really that attractive for first-timers.

(erdic) 64%





Harpoon **Battleset**

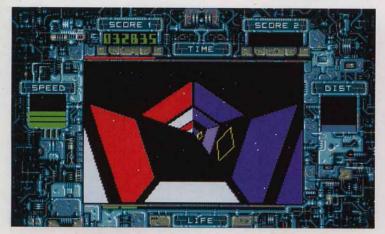
Build your own Trident, and sail the seven seas nuking people, with Harpoon Battleset 3.

Electronic Arts ■ £14.99

Harpoon is regarded as the modern naval board-game. When first released, computer Harpoon was not reviewed in Amiga Format - because it was extremely buggy. Happily it has since been updated (although it still doesn't work well with Workbench 2). Med Conflict contains 16 scenarios. The major players are the USA, Israel, Turkey, USSR, Greece, Syria, Egypt and Libya. Each battle uses different nations' navies, and range from small localised gunboat diplomacy to set-piece slugging matches. The main difference between Med Conflict and other battlesets is play balance. American 'Super ships', such as Aegis cruisers, are simply not available. This gives a more even game.

Another important point is that because the Med is a small sea, the battles do not drag on as past battlesets have done. Harpoon is a slow, diverse, interesting tension-filled game.





Loriciel 126.99

Psybora - Is it the Tempest of the nineties or a another good idea gone badly wrong?

There is a place in the dark, deep, far-off regions of space where the planets are linked by strange, geometric pathways. Unfortunately, though, a mysterious alien force is using these pathways to pass between planets, and you must travel through the pathways in an attempt to seek them out. This is done in Psyborg by moving along the panel-like strips, which shift around as you progress in the game. Your aim is totry and reach the exit gate (without actually stepping off the path) before the timer runs out. Special panels are scattered along the route, giving extra time, jumps and power bonuses.

Although the idea behind Psyborg is interesting enough, the game itself is fairly lame. All you have to do in fact is push the joystick forward and then twitch it from side to side as the floor moves. As you can imagine, it's hardly the most riveting action around. There are quite a few levels, but the actual gameplay stays pretty

much the same throughout. Psyborg is sadly another 'all plot and no action' affair which just doesn't hold much water when compared to other future-sport games.





Firetea

Someday all wars will be fought like this. Fireteam 2200 is one you can win.

Internecine ■ £29.99

The 23rd century will be dominated by mega corporations, each exploiting world resources to keep Earth going. They have to guard against alien and each other's attacks, so they hire mercenaries to protect their interests and attack other planets.

In Fireteam 2200, you play a career mercenary commander. The objective is to win battles and get rewarded. You can then build up your fireteam, getting different weapons and officers to make a more effective fighting force for the next battle.

Fireteam is graphically weak. It's a good thing the manual gives a good grounding on how to get started - after a few failed attempts you pick up the basics of movement and fire. Most people will find it difficult

to get proficient though, due to the keyboard-based control. It doesn't install properly onto hard disk either. It certainly is a different kind of war-game full marks for originality; nothing for the execution.





he Jetsons Hi-Tec ■ £12.99

Meet the Jetsons, the Simpson's poor cousins. Say hello and giggle quietly as they behave like total nutters. Then leave, quickly,

Whether you're familiar with Hanna-Barbera's cartoon or not, half-an-hour with this cartoon tie-in is long enough to put you off this sad, shambling bunch of nauseating space-age gits for life. There are four levels, each with two stages. The first stage is always a wander-around-em-up caper, the second a flying sequence. Dodge the blackholes, avoid getting picked up by the inter-galactic traffic police and resist the temptation of setting about your Amiga with a pickaxe. The backdrops may change to preserve the facade, but the characterisation remains weak, the action consistently gameplay-free and the graphics abysmal.

The graphics remain poor throughout and the accompanying sound-track is guarantied to keep your tortured nerves a-jangle for weeks. In fact, the repercussive effects of this computer game when The Jetsons next grace our TV screens don't

even bare thinking about. No, The Jetsons is one game to avoid at all costs. It's a shame that after the excellent Scooby Doo Hi-Tec should release a dud, but seemingly it happens to everyone at some point.



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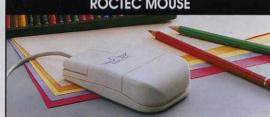
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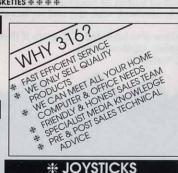
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OI! YOU'D BETTER BUY SEGA POWER THIS MONTH.



"COS WE KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE!



Good kill! (The actual kill is that tiny explosion in the middle distance. Tsk. Modern missiles eh?)

Combat Pilot

Action 16 ■ £7.99

If it's not the grand-daddy of most modern Amiga flight sims, then F16 must be a benevolent Uncle who comes round a lot. What you have is a detailed and highly complex cockpit, about two million radar/combat/missile modes and about 4,000 keys to press. Despite this initial impenetrability, F16 is a crackingly good flight sim. It's fast, it's smooth and it gives you a nice shiny Falcon to point at Russians in

What's apparent though, is MicroProse et al have learnt from the worst aspects of F16. For example, here you've got to faff around with a radio, work out bearings, vectors and other fiddly things and look at a complicated cockpit display panel which takes up most of the front view. It's just too accurate. If you're a real flight sim addict and you like getting to grips with techie

wibble, F16 will please you immensely. If you're a gamesplayer who likes the odd combat air patrol, think twice, even at this price.





Don't worry it's all just a bit of harmless rough and tumble. It

Renegade Hit Squad ■ £7.99

What are you if the entire world wants to kill you? You're a Renegade, that's what, You're also a dead man. In Renegade, the plot is fairly unimportant. What really matters is that you get to thump, kick and otherwise maim any or all of the characters who wander onto your screen to meet you.

You have a variety of fighting moves to inflict upon the unwary computer opponents, and after a few good whacks they fall down, shimmer and die. If your brain isn't too taxed by all this, try to remember to walk from left to right. This brings on more baddies (hooray).

Renegade is probably one of the better beat-em-ups. It has got rather smooth gameplay, nice graphics and a lot of 'feel' to it. For an added special effect you could have a go at flicking tomato ketchup at the screen as you play. It worked for me...



Into the Valley of Explosions rode an idiot in a woefully underweaponed

Rainbow Arts ■ £7.99

For quite a while, everybody was making this sort of game. You scroll along through metallic caverns, blasting fleets of alien fiends who swoop down on you from every, er... crevice.

Denaris wasn't exactly the first of these games, but it also wasn't really the worst. The graphics are as good as they need to be and the speed of the action won't give you any thinking time, but then you don't need that much time to think here. All you have to do is blast, dodge, blast some more and, in fact, just keep blasting. There isn't even a software autofire, so it's arthritis of the thumb time as you jiggle

All well and good, but don't you have a game like this? Think carefully, because lurking somewhere, every Amiga owner must have a game exactly like Denaris. But if, in the unlikely event that you are the

person who missed out, and you want a shoot-em-up, then you'll be getting a lot of baddies and some nifty caverns to fly through with this 'un.



I'll confuse the keeper by deliberately not aiming at the goal (smirk smirk!).

1st Division anager CodeMasters ■ £7.99

How easy can it be to run a first division side? You won't find out by playing this game, but you might while away a few hours.

The idea is to get your team to win everything. You do this by making decisions, buying players, training them and generally optimising your chances. It's a mouse-controlled text-heavy clicking session spiced up with the odd graphic as you make your do-or-die choices.

When you're happy, it's off the the pitch-side to watch what look like the Kick Off guys as they rush around during bouts of goal-

mouth action. You can't control them, you can only sit helpless as they cock up every chance that comes





Take that, soft fleshy human being. That'll learn you to bung grenades at errant cyborg tin cans.

RoboCop Hit Squad ■ £7.99

RoboCop was a huge licence in its time, but since then interest has waned, and the only reason people would buy it now is if was an excellent game. So is it? Well, it's not bad. You control Robo as he wanders through the horizontally-scrolling streets of old Detroit. Baddies appear from all directions, and it's your onerous duty to either blast them with your specially matching automatic handgun or simply to punch them out of existence with, er, your special fists.

Plenty of baddies on plenty of levels will keep you slugging it out for a fair while, and, in the usual way. Ultimately, though, it's a bit tedious and, and is now certainly showing its age.





Yes! You can wipe out a small middle-eastern town

Operation Thunderbolt

Hit Squad ■ £7.99

Don't try to bottle up that latent xenophobia. Sit on this couch and relax. Let it all come out. Without opening your eyes, gently boot up Operation Thunderbolt.

Open your eyes slowly. Lightly but firmly grasp the joystick. Now allow your machine-gun fire to wash over the mock 3D figures who rush past your view. That's

it. See how they die? Move the sights over those Middle Eastern gentlemen. Keep firing. Get the extra ammo pods as they fall. Relax. And just let the hatred flow through you.





I must stop and think for a moment. This guy is blowing out my ribcage. Do I

he Untouchables

Hit Squad ■ £7.99

Play this after you've played RoboCop and you could be forgiven for thinking that Eliot Ness is Alex Murphy with a hat on. Yes, it's another horizontal-scroller walk and shoot. This time you're in various Chicago locations, and your aim is to kill everyone you find there. Presumably they've all broken the law at some point.

Pick up weapons and ammo, remember to get that guy hiding at the top of the

screen. That's about it, really. As you wander through the levels you have to dodge gunfire that appears from the populace, whilst shooting them back. It's pretty fast, pretty big and pretty pretty. But that it's it.





It hacks, chops slices, dices, grinds and makes terrific milkshakes. Get yourself a broadsword from Ronco

vanhoe Hit Squad ■ £7.99

Strappe on ye bucklers and prepare for an adventure in olde merrie Englande. Or alternatively, boot up Ivanhoe and kill some computer folk. For it's another horizontal walk-along-and-chop-baddies game. Ivanhoe does have the merit of being cartoony, owing to its use of large sprites and smooth animation, but it lacks the cutting edge needed to make it something special.

It looks different, and has a certain style and charm about it. But when you try

and play the game, it leaves you bewildered. So much is going on that everything gets confused and you end up hammering the fire-button. Nice graphics, plenty of action, but shame about the gameplay.



Frenetic footballing. piping hot fun, what people were playing before Populous 2 and a great picture show.

Award

Empire ■ £25.99

Populous, Kick Off 2, Pipemania, Space Ace.

Populous is the original god-game. Fun to play, involved and complex to think over, and very stylish to look at. Kick Off 2 is still the classic footy game for the Amiga. Pipemania is a puzzle game for would-be

plumbers. Connect the bits of pipe into networks against a strict time limit. Space Ace. OK, so you're getting three great games and a slideshow for your £25.99.



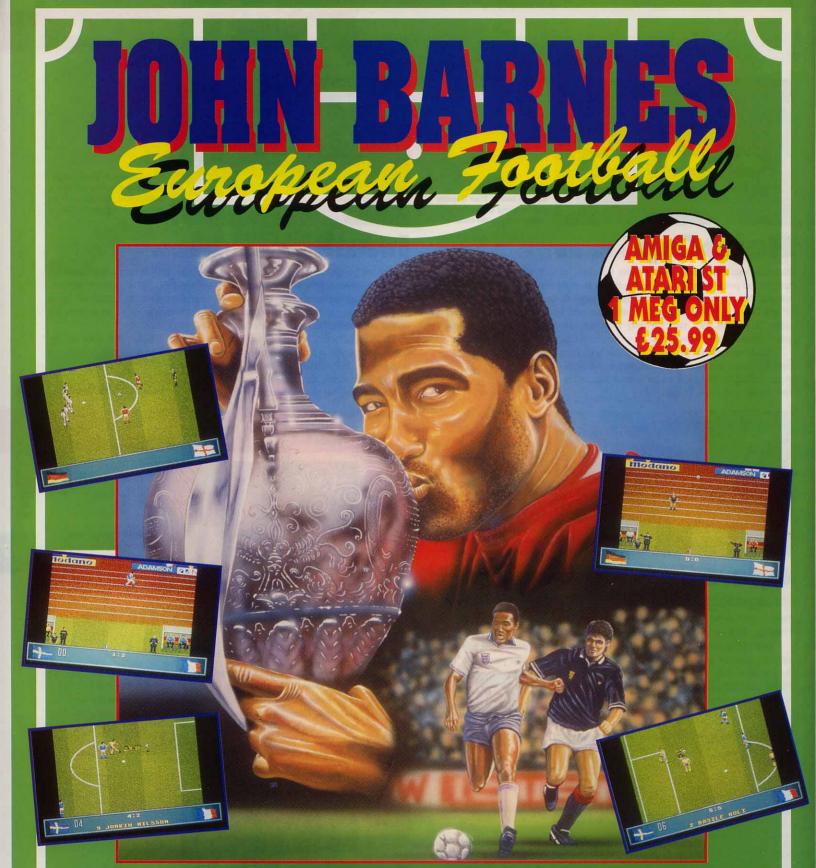
Fine if you desire three pretty similar fighting games.

Ocean ■ £19.99

Double Dragon, Shadow Warrior, Dragon Ninja

Double Dragon allows you to play the parts of a couple of street-fighting girls. Punching, whipping, kicking and general hurting is afoot, with nice clear graphics and a reasonable amount of gameplay. Shadow Warrior also allows you the opportunity of serious violence. As well as hurting animate objects, you can also damage phone kiosks, cars light aircraft and various other items of street

furniture. It's a pity that the game is so bad, then. Dragon Ninja is of course, in the same vein.



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Amiga Format's at-a-glance guide comes into its own. Take a trip to...

Sorting out the wheat from the chaff is always a problem. That's where **History Scores**

THIS MONTH'S SCORES

If you've still got cash in your pockets after the post-election tax hikes, why not spend it on one of these? They may not put bread on your table, but they'll put a smile on your face. As always, the top ones are the juiciest ones.

Vroom	UBISoft	91%
Dynablaster/Bomberman	UBISoft	87%
Space Crusade	Gremlin	82%
Titus the Fox	Titus	81%
Elvira 2 — The Jaws of Cerbo	erus Accolade	81%
Black Crypt	Electronic Arts	78%
Harpoon Battleset 3	Electronic Arts	75%
Brides of Dracula	Gonzo Games	73%
Backgammon Royale	Oxford Softworks	67%
Ultima VI	Origin/Mindscape	67%
Chess Champion	Oxford Softworks	65%
Go!	Oxford Softworks	64%
Space Gun		
Fireteam 2200	Internecine	55%
Gateway to the Savage Fron	tier.US Gold	45%
Race Drivin'		
Psyborg	Loriciel	36%
The Jetsons	Hi Tec	29%

LAST MONTH'S SCORES

If you missed last month's red-hot Screenplay, you don't really deserve to know the scores. But we're nice folk at Amiga Format, so here's the lowdown.

John Madden's Football	Electronic Arts	94%
Shadowlands	Domark	93%
Storm Master	Silmarils	90%
Return of Medusa	Starbyte	85%
Pinball Dreams		
Harlequin	Gremlin	78%
Wayne Gretzky Hockey 2		
WolfChild	Core Design	76%
PGA Tournament Courses	Electronic Arts	72%
Mad Dog Williams	Game Crafters	72%
Crime City	IF	70%
Starbyte Super Soccer	Starbyte	63%
Video Kid	Gremlin	60%
Big Run	Storm	58%
4D Sports Driving		
Leisure Suit Larry 5		
Willy Beamish	Sierra	44%
Great Napoleonic Battles	Impressions	40%
Borobodur		
Hare Raising Havoc		

Incarcerated in shops around the country, you'll find these games, looking sad. Do the decent thing—set them free.



Three months down the line and Robocop 3 is still a strong seller. Ocean's bestever licence, the game is a 3D action game featuring some tense atmosphere and excellent effects. If you've missed this one (and you ought not to), there might just be time to pick a copy up.

	Maria Maria Maria	
Robocop 3	Ocean	91%
Heart Of China	Sierra	90%
Mercenary 3	Novagen	87%
Kid Gloves 2	Millennium	79%
Leander	Psygnosis	78%
Fate: Gates of Dawn	reLine	77%
WWF Wrestlemania	Ocean	72%
Realms	Virgin	69%
Golden Eagle	Loriciel	59%
Moonstone	Mindscape	59%
The Godfather	US Gold	46%
Red Baron	Dynamix/Sierra	39%
Falling Jewels	Soft and Easy	38%
Steve McQueen	Loriciel	26%
Thunder Burner	Loriciel	22%

LAST YEAR'S SCORES

This is the way the world looked last year. There are a few stormers here - and some can be picked up for peanuts.

MicroProse	FG92%
Electronic Arts	FG90%
Demonware	88%
ImageWorks	87%
Psygnosis	85%
Strategic Studies Group	p85%
Titus	83%
Audiogenic	82%
Core Design	80%
Gremlin Graphics	80%
ImageWorks	80%
Digital Magic Software	79%
Oxford Softworks	78%
Rainbird	77%
Dynamix/Sierra	75%
Hewson	71%
Pure Fiction	70%
	MicroProse Electronic Arts Demonware ImageWorks Strategic Studies Group Titus UBISoft Audiogenic Core Design Gremlin Graphics ImageWorks Digital Magic Software Oxford Softworks. Rainbird Dynamix/Sierra. Hewson Pure Fiction

TOP TEN AMIGA BUDGET PRICE CHART

1(-)	F16 Combat Pilot	4
	Action Sixteen	£9.99
2(1)	First Division Mana	ger
	Code Masters	£7.99
3(-)	James Pond	
	GBH	£7.99
4(2)	Scooby Doo	
900	Hi Tec	£7.99
5(-)	Toyota Celica Rally	
	GBH	£7.99
6(-)	Rainbow Islands	
	Hit Squad	£7.99
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	Hit Squad	£7.99
8(-)	Italia 90	
	Tronix	£9.99
9(6)	Wacky Races	
100	Hi Tec	£7.99
10(9)	World Cricket	

1	Lemmings
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2	Speedball 2
	Mirrorsoft
3	Turrican 2
	Anco
4	S.W.I.V.
	Storm
5	Final Whistle
	Anco
6	F-19 Stealth Fighter
	MicroProse
7	Panza Kick Boxing
	US Gold
В	A-10 Tank Killer
	Dynamix/Sierra
9	Kick Off 2
	Anco
0	Fists of Fury 2
	Virgin

Chart Chatter

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Zeppelin

A vroom with more views—Geoff Crammond's F1 GP takes the (yellowy) chequered flag again.



A320 for years now, and., hello? Hello! Er...

Strange news in the charts this month-at last ELSPA (the publishers association) have found a sponsor to help fund the Gallup poll. Who is the mystery patron? None other than McVities - makers of the Penguin choccy biccies. What next? Will we ever see a St Michael Underwear chart or the top-selling games from Habitat? Only time will tell...

Meanwhile, for the second month in a row, Formula One Grand Prix maintains its lead over the opposition. By now it must be at least a lap ahead of the backmarkers, leaving them choking on dust. In second place, high above the clouds of smoke is A320 Airbuswhich dropped out and disappeared ages ago, only to pop up on our scopes out of the blue. Too much like the real thing, we reckon.

Third, Jimmy White's Whirlwind Snooker is thoroughly, er, snookered. He's returned to his old rigid stance and isn't moving for any-



D'you see that? A grown man in a romper suit!

one. He's knocked the awful WWF Wrestlemania over the head with a well-aimed cue, plonking it right over the ropes.

As if there wasn't enough clowning around, Gremlin's Harlequin makes a surprise attempt to take on the big boys. He's going to have have to work hard to avoid a red nose.

At the back of the the pack, a few desperadoes still refuse to go down-Birds of Prey circles around the number six spot, while Robocop guards his lucky seven.

In eighth place, the Dizzy Collection bounces back into the top 10 for the umpteenth time. No wonder it's dizzy-it's going up and down like a well-oiled lift.

Populous 2 finds that being god isn't all roses, and falls off its cloud, plummeting down to number nine, while John Major's fave, World Series Cricket, sneaks into number 10 by the back door. A bit spooky, huh?



Mirror, mirror, will I be in the charts in June?

THE TOP 30 AMIGA **PRICE CHA**

		· · · · · · ·		
1(1)		Formula One Grand P	rix	
		MicroProse	£34.99	FG92%
2(-)	Re	A320 Airbus		
20.2		Thalion	£35.99	78%
3(3)		Jimmy White's Whirly	vind Sn	ooker
		Virgin	29.99	. FG91%
4(2)		WWF Wrestlemania		
-		Ocean	£25.99	72%
5(-)	New	Harlequin		
	-	Gremlin Graphics	£25.99	78%
6(4)	_	Birds of Prey	624.00	000/
7/7\	_	Electronic Arts	£34.99	88%
7(7)	×	Robocop 3 Ocean	£25.99	FG91%
8(14)	<u> </u>	Dizzy Collection	123.33	100170
0(14)		Code Masters	£24.99	Comp
9(5)	_	Populous 2	121,33	Comp
-(-)		Electronic Arts	£29.99	FG95%
10(-)	New	World Series Cricket		
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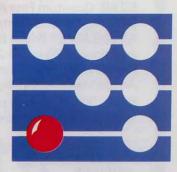
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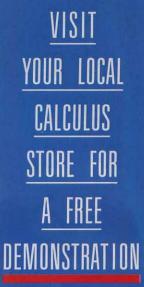
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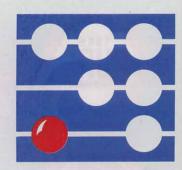
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THE LUCKY BEGGARS

Two helpings of nice tips this month, namely in the shape of *Battle Isle* strategy hints and some nice *Knightmare* maps. Raj Sobratee is the first lucky chap to win a voucher for the *Battle Isle* stuff, with the second going out to Alan Holwill for his *Knightmare* piccies. Well done, lads!

The two Helping Hand winners this month are Paul Berry in Essex and Erik Waitt from Barnet, who each get a smaller (but still very desirable) £25 voucher.

If you think that you've got a tip worth printing in the mag, why not jot it down and send it in to:

GAMEBUSTERS, **Amiga Format**, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.

As you can see from this issue, we're keen on high-quality *DPaint* maps sent in on disk. Try to make them as pretty as possible (don't just stick some lurid squares on the screen with some badly-typed text) so that they look good in the mag – you could win a prize!

FINAL FIGHT

There are quite a few gamesplayers having difficulty getting through this beat-em-up arcade conversion. There are also a lot of people who have found this tip. So if you can't kick and punch your way through the opposition, then try this for size.



These brutes too tough? Use the cheat to show them who's boss!

When the message comes up that says "Not so fast Mike, turn on your TV," simply press the Help key. You can then continue your quest with infinite power. What's more, if you press the '+' key while you are playing, all the Mad Gear gang members will disappear from the screen.

THE GODFATHER

Another game that seems to have caught the attention of the Gamebusting public is The Godfather. Although we thought it a pretty mindless and average Op Wolf clone, a lot of people have got hold of the game and found this tip.



If you hang around looking at the scenery for too long you could very well end up riddled with bullets. Alternatively, you could try using the cheat to gain some breathing space.

Start the game as normal and while playing press Pause. Now all you have to do is type in Pizza Hut and restart the game. You will then be an invincible Mafioso.

Game Busters

Are you willing to do battle with the dreaded video foe? Have you the ability to wipe them away with a twitch of a joystick? No? Well you're in need of a little help then. Step forward **Maff Evans**' mighty legion of Gamebusters to light your way.

FORMULA ONE GRAND PRIX

This is one hell of a racing simulation. Not only did it win a Format Gold in Issue 30, but it has been acclaimed as the best Formula One racing game ever released on the Amiga. However, this doesn't stop you hating the game when you lose every race! Never mind, quite a few readers have found a way to end your grief. Read on...



If this is the only view you seem to get of the other cars, then this tip could be for you!

When taking part in a non-championship race, drive around until you are on the last lap. When you next come to the pits, drive in and pull up to your pit crew. Wait there until the "Race Over" message appears, and no matter what position you were in, you will have won the race. That should save your ego a little!

PIT FIGHTER

Another one of those 'nice idea, shame about the game' arcade conversions that doesn't quite work. If you're having trouble bashing your opponents into submission, then try this little cheat for size.

Start the game as normal and while playing hold Shift and type in LOBSTERS. You can now use the following keys for special effects:

- 1-0 Jump to selected level.
- C Jump to Championship Level.
- L Jump to Elimination Match.

Simon Phillips, Devizes, Wiltshire



Battle Isle





This futuristic strategy game was quite a hit with the **Amiga Format** reviewing team, managing to earn itself a Format Gold. However, some of you high-tech warlords may be having a bit of trouble. Would a players' guide be of any use? I thought it might...

LEVEL ACCESS

Here are some codes to allow you access to later levels. Included on the tables is further information to help you plan your strategy:

Units – the initial number of units under player one and two's control. Map means the total number on the map (in depots and factories for example).

Factories/Depots – the initial number of factories and depots at the start of the game. Map means the total number, including undiscovered ones.

Initial Score – the initial score of both players, based on the defensive values of the units owned.

ONE PLAYER GAME

Level	Name	Units	Factories	Depots	Initial
Number	Code	One, Two, Map	One, Two, Map	One, Two, Map	Score
16	CONRA	7, 5, 12		and total	495
17	PHASE	7, 5, 12	ALTERNATION OF STREET	V	485
18	EXOTY	7, 9, 16			675
19	MOUNT	7, 11, 24		0, 0, 2	880
20	FIGHT	14, 13, 39		0, 0, 2	1450
21	RUSTY	10, 13 33	0, 0, 1	1, 0, 3	1250
22	FIFTH	23, 27, 50		2, 3, 5	1915
23	VESUV	13, 28, 47	1, 0, 1	0, 0, 2	1850
24	MAGIC	15, 30, 72	0, 0, 4	0, 0, 1	2595
25	SPACE	14, 27, 59	0, 0, 2	0, 0, 2	2265
26	VALEY	10, 20, 38		0, 1, 3	1440
27	TESTY	34, 23, 90	0, 0, 2	0, 0, 6	2975
28	TERRA	27, 48, 85	0, 0, 1	1, 2, 4	3365
29	SLAVE	39, 62, 117	0, 0, 1	0, 0, 2	5215
30	NEVER	19, 28, 69	0, 0, 2	0, 0, 2	2575
31	RIVER	67, 53, 130	0, 0, 1	0, 2, 4	5475

TWO PLAYER GAME

230101		CILLED	* *************************************	20 choro	
Number	Code	One, Two, Map	One, Two, Map	One, Two, Map	Score
00	FIRST	6, 6, 12			430
01	GHOST	7, 7, 14	The Views		480
02	GAMMA	16, 18, 34			1180
03	MARSS	15, 17, 35	0, 0, 2	1, 1 2	1210
04	EAGLE	20, 21, 41			1345
05	METAN	5, 6, 33	0, 0, 2	0, 0, 2	1220
06	FOTON	22, 22, 70	0, 0, 2	0, 0, 2	2430
07	POLAR	3, 3, 23	0, 0, 4		770
08	TIGER	35, 32, 69	0, 0, 1		3195
09	SNAKE	19, 21, 53	0, 0, 1	0, 0, 2	2000
10	ZENIT	23, 23, 60	0, 0, 1	0, 0, 2	2015
11	DONNN	52, 49, 101	0, 0, 2		3770
12	VESTA	29, 30, 71	0, 0, 6		3505
13	OXXID	8, 8, 42	0, 0, 2	0, 0, 4	1350
14	DEMON	83, 83, 172	4, 4, 8	3, 3, 6	7230
15	GIANT	67, 64, 171	0, 0, 4	0, 0, 6	7005

Factories

Depots

Initial

SPECIAL LEVELS

Level Number	Name Code	Units One, Two, Map	Factories One, Two, Map	Depots One, Two, Map	Initial Score
32	EUROP	21, 23, 69		0, 0, 6	2605
33	STORM	109, 91, 200		2, 1, 3	7775

General Strategy Tips

At the start of the game always check any depots and factories in your possession for units, as well as checking your headquarters.

Look to see where the PROVIDER, GIANT or INVADER units closest to your DEMON infantry are, so that the foot soldiers can travel quickly in relative safety. Always transport the DEMON units in other vehicles so that a speedy withdrawal is possible.

When given a choice about which factory or depot to capture, pick the one with the most energy and useful units. Don't go for a depot that has BLITZ or SPHINX units when the enemy has no aircraft!

When building units, build equipment needed, then build as many SCORPION units as possible. You can surround the enemy with attacking forces.

If you are attacking a building that has DEMON units nearby, then attack with two DEMONs, avoiding his DEMON unit. Then send one of your own DEMON units into the building to capture it. The enemy will then recapture its building, at which point you should send your other DEMON unit into the building. When you look at the contents of your building you will see that the enemy DEMON is now on your side.

When fighting a submarine on later levels and you don't know where it is, switch to a nearby boat with a long range (such as the MARAUDER) and take it into move mode. You will then see two hexs that aren't surrounded by dashed lines. These spaces are taken up by the submarine.

When attacking with a unit that has a range of two or more, always try to use the weapon from more than one hex away, because the enemy then has no chance to fire back when they are attacked.

The best place to attack enemy units is when they are on open ground and your units are on high ground, as your units do more damage.

If you have any aircraft then you can use them to attack or block ground units. This is especially useful against DEMON, SCORPION, GLADIATOR, ANGEL, MERLIN, GIANT, AMAZON and BARRACUDA units as they have no defence against aircraft.

When defending against air raids, it is useful to



have a SPHINX unit ready. The enemy knows how good they are at stopping aircraft, so they are usually the primary target for the attack. A method to counter this is to place the SPHINX in a corner of a depot or headquarters and place BLITZ units in the surrounding hexes. The enemy will then never be in hex to hex contact with the SPHINX. A similar method can be used to protect the ANGEL heavy artillery from tank attack. The only difference is that you should replace the BLITZ units with SCORPION or GLADIATOR units.

It does not explain in the rule book to any great extent about using MERLIN units to make depots. This is done in the action/attack phase. Do the same as you would to attack if the MERLIN could and, if the geography of the land is suitable, a target hex will appear from the MERLIN. This will be the entrance to the depot when completed. It takes two turns to build the depot, although two MERLIN units can make a depot in one turn. If using one MERLIN you must remember to order it in the next action/attack phase to finish the depot as it does not automatically do so.

The experience system is of no great importance, especially in long, drawn out games, because an experienced unit will always destroy an identical "rookie" unit. The system is based as follows:

If in attack or defence a unit destroys one or more of the enemy in the opposing unit, then they will gain one experience point.

If a unit destroys the last enemy in a particular unit then they will receive an extra bonus of another point, making up a total of two points.

When fighting against units containing only one enemy (even when at full strength such as a BARRACUDA, PEGASUS, FORTRESS or AMAZON), an experience point is gained every time a shot hits it, even if that shot did not destroy it. Two points are gained for the unit that finally destroys it.

The best land attack formation is to have CRUSADER and GLADIATOR units in the middle of the front line. On the flanks it is useful to have SCORPION units placed, as their high speed makes them useful for surrounding the enemy. Behind the front line, have as many BUSTER units as possible so that they are two hexes from the enemy and the rocket attacks can be made in safety. Behind the BUSTER units (or along side them) have SPHINX, ANGEL and BLITZ units to protect the front line against air attack (the ANGEL units can also bombard the enemy from a distance). At the rear have DEMON units on-board PROVIDER units so that they can rush out and storm a building or retreat in the event of a collapsed line. PROVIDER units carrying DEMON troops should attack or allow to be attacked, since a troop PROVIDER loses all of its on-board troops when destroyed.

If you have a PEGASUS unit, try to launch the aircraft on-board as soon as a battle is likely, since all aircraft that are still on a destroyed carrier will be lost.







Knightmare

There have been quite a few desperate people getting in touch about this game, saying that they're stuck or lost. Well these maps should make finding your way easier. The later quests are a bit trickier, so we'll be printing the solutions in a following issue.

> Solution and maps by Alan Holwill, Stuttgart, Germany



Three Balls, two T-shirts, three pairs of Shorts, a pair of Sandles.

1. Return the Crown here, 2. Your Carriage awaits you, 3. Take this shortcut to the Forrest.

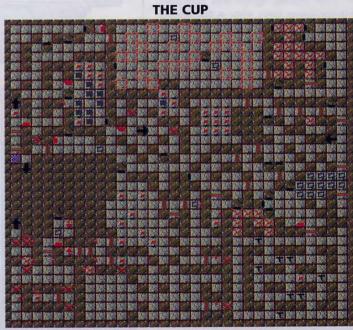
THE FORREST

Twig, five Sweets, a pair of Sandals, T-shirt, Penknife, Iron Key, a pair of Shorts, Spade, loads of Apples, loads of Rabbits.

1. Your Quest starts here. 2. Quest One "The Shield of Justice". 3. Quest Two "The Cup of Life". 4. Quest Three "The Sword of Freedom". 5. Quest Four "The Crown".

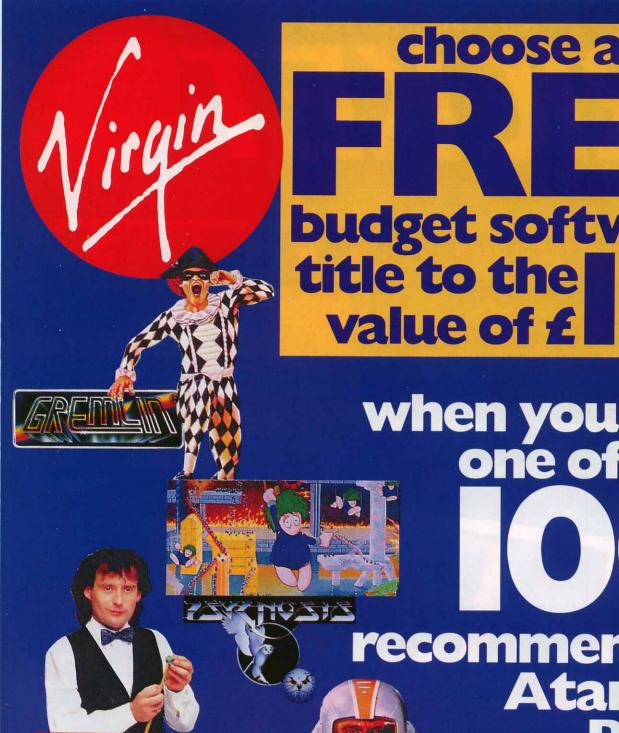
THE SHIELD Items: Two pairs of Shorts, two T-shirts, Skirt, two pairs of Sandals, Baseball Hat, Blouse, Jumper, four Darts, Staff of Aid, Cross of Mystic, Blow Pipe, three-pronged Knife, two Penknives, two Rocks, Pea Shooter, six Peas, Kitchen Knife, five Iron Keys, Gold Key, Bronze Key, six Sweets, Spider's Leg. Messages: 1. Your Quest for the Shield has begun. 2. Don't play with fire. 3. Keep the pad down. 4. Sewer entrance. 5. The hom Mr child. 6. The Prison. 7. Well done, Quest One completed.





Two pairs of Slacks, two pairs of Trainers, a pair of Shoes, Trilby, Baseball Hat, Jeans, Denim Jacket, Boots, Jumper, ten Arrows, Short Sword, Club, Kitchen Knife, Blowpipe, five Darts, Shield, five Throwing Stars, six Peas, Sheath, Bow, Cross of Aid, Chest, five Gold Keys, Gem Key, two Bronze Keys, Milk Bottle, six Apples, three biscuits, two Rock Cakes, two Spider's Legs.

1. The Mystic Chambers. 2. Mystic Door. 3. Nobody must enter. 4. Holy Moly. 5. Your eyes tell you lies. 6. Gollem's Land. 7. Enter the Warp Maze. 8. The Cup Guardians.



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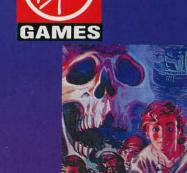
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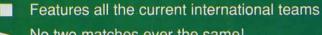
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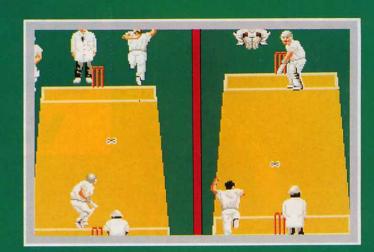
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Best foot forward

Please, please, please could someone give me a cheat for *First Samurai* or *Strider* if possible? Thanks.

Alex Macleod

Don't be too premature with your thanks! I may not be able to help you out! To tell the truth, We don't have a cheat for First Samurai, but Strider is another matter. Start the game as normal, then pause the action. Now hold down the Shift key and press 1 on the keyboard. You will now be invincible and have the ability to skip levels. Press F1 to F5 to jump to levels one to five, and press number keys 1 to 5 on the keyboard (not the keypad) to jump to various sections within a level.

By the way, if anyone does know of a cheat mode for First Samurai, please send it in so that we can help out poor Alex.

Somewhere over the bluebird

I have recently received the game Rainbow Islands and I have been playing it constantly. however, I can't get past the first island (although I can get to the guardian). I can get all seven diamonds, but I don't get a big diamond and I still can't get past the guardian. Please, please can you help me?

Lesley Finlayson, Portland, Dorset

Ah a tricky little test of skill is Rainbow Islands (he says, putting on his GamesMaster head). It seems you are missing the point of the seven gems just a tad. It's not enough just to get all the colours, you have to get them in the right order (red, orange, yellow and so on). Here is an explanation of how they work:

The screen is split into seven vertical bands (which are invisible). What you have to do is kill the monsters so that the gem lands on the right section of the screen (furthest left is red and furthest right is violet, with the bands in-between corresponding to the other colours in turn). If you collect a red gem, then orange, then yellow and so on, you will find that on the guardian screen, a secret door will have appeared. All you have to do to finish the level now is leap into the door. Hope that makes things easier!

Back to Springfield

Could you please give me a helping hand on level one of *Back to the Future II* or on level four of *Bart Simpson*. I

cannot get past the bit where you have to jump on the platforms that light up.

David Wildman, Gloucester

Well David, you're in luck. I have at hand the answers to just these questions!

First, Back to the Future II. Start the game as normal then hit the pause button. Now type THE ONLY NEAT THING TO DO (including spaces) and you can restart the game with infinite lives. Also, pressing Shift and Z will allow you to skip levels.

Now to your second problem, which is also good news for young Erik Waitt from Barnet, since this tip earns him a Helping Hand voucher! To get past the red platforms, just follow this advice:

When you are on the first red tile, jump until it starts flashing quickly, then jump on the next red tile that appears. Now jump diagonally to the right, where you should land on an invisible platform (in other words you'll be standing in mid air). Jump up again and walk across the invisible platform (as weird as it sounds). When you get to the orange section, do a long jump to get past a hole, then you can carry on walking. Hope that gets you past the danger zone.

Tin Machines

Please can you help me on *Metal Mutant*, because I want to have infinite power. When I asked *Amiga Power* for help they never said anything in the magazine or printed a letter, so please can you help me?

Lawrence Eldridge,

Oh dear. Not a lot we can do about Amiga Power. Nothing to do with us, honest! Er... we were on holiday! Um... it was them, not us!

A lot of people have been writing in asking for help on Metal Mutants, but nobody around here seems to have the answer. So, dear reader, it's over to you once more! Can you supply Lawrence with the help he needs? If so, send it into Helping Hand at the address at the bottom of the page.

Major disaster (no that's not right. Er...)



My dad recently bought an A500 Plus, but he lets me play games on it (although my dad is more interested in the programming side). Have you got any cheats for *Captain Planet*? I can complete levels one to four but I want to beat level five and become Captain Planet.

Andy Rowlatt, Wantage, Oxfordshire

Another chance for a reader to come to the rescue. This time the hint comes from Paul Berry in Essex.

What you have to do is complete the fire level and get killed on the water level. Enter your name in the score table as BBBB and you should be able to start with infinite continues (well it does on our version). Hope that works on the version you've got!

Fur across the ocean

Please could you give me a cheat for *Navy Seals*, because I can't get past the second level.

Robert Thomas Rotherham, South Yorkshire

Well, if it's a cheat you want, then it's a cheat you shall have! Play the game as normal until you get a good enough score to place your name on the high-score table. Instead of being big-headed and typing your name in, enter the name PSBOYS. Now go back and start the game again. When you want to skip a level, press H to pause the action, then hit Escape. You should then find yourself on the next level. It's as simple as that! Any time you want to skip a stage, just hit H then Escape.

Spook!

I recently purchased *Ghouls 'N' Ghosts*, but I can't get anywhere. Can anyone suggest a cheat? I am also stuck on *Supercars*. Please could you help.

Henry Wenham, Crewe, Cheshire

Extremely simple! For Ghouls 'N' Ghosts, just type KARENBROADHURST on the title screen to remove the collision detection. As for Supercars, enter ODIE to skip the first level, BIGC to jump to the third and RICH for pots of cash. That enough for you? Good!

That's about all we've got time for this month. If you want more extensive tips, then I'm afraid you'll have to get hold of the *Screenplay* books, check out the order form over the page.

If you're stuck on a particular game or have a solution to a letter printed in the magazine, then write it down and send it in to us at **HELPING HAND**

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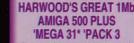
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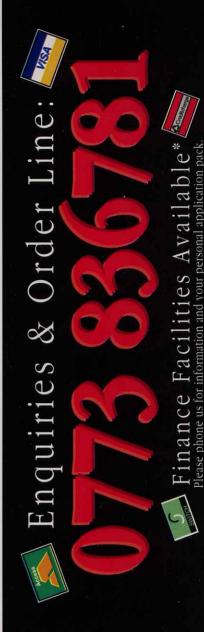
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Many Amiga Accessories & Peripherals (e.g. Printers, Disk Drives, Software etc.) are

compatible with CDTV. Please phone us for compatability information.

HARWOODS AMIGA **NEW LOWER PRICE**

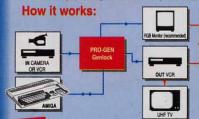


graph shows Spectracolor which has now been replaced by Photon Paint 2.0

Please note the above photograph shows Spectracolor whitch has now been replaced by Photon Paint 2.0 PRO-GEN Amiga Genlock
The Pro-gen AMIGA Genlock allows you to mix your Amiga display with any PAL video signal whether it is from a VCR, Laserdisk player or a Camoorder. In fact any item of video equipment which outputs a PAL composite video signal. Combined with the Amiga computer the Pro-Gen gives you the facilities of a special effects & video titling suite. Take your own films & give them a professional look by OVERLAYING TITLES or by SUPER IMPOSING YOUR OWN GRAPHICS created in packages like Photon Paint 2.0 or Deluxe Paint. Pro-Gen is supplied with micro illusions superb Photon Paint 2.0 package.

FREE

A powerful Lo-and-Hi resolution hold and modify (HAM) paint program, with overscan (NTSC/PAL) and special effects for your Amiga Computer including all the following... Contour Mapping: drapes a brush over a 3D "landscape". Pixel intensity values decide the peaks and valleys, while a specially developed ray-tracing algorithm maps the image precisely. Surface Mapping: around 3D objects, both geometric and free hand drawn. Luminance: sets the light source and intensity. Shadowing: automatically with control of size and offset. Brush Control: twist, tilt, resize, flip, rotate, bend, adjustable transparency, stretch etc etc. PLUS LOTS MORE! A great program allowing use of 4096 colours. Choice of horiz/vert page print, negatives, anti-aliasing, dithered print, adjustable bringtness etc.



STOP PRESS

PROGEN. NOW INCLUDES A VERY VERSATILE MULTI COMPONENT VOED TO GENLOCK CONNECTING CABLE KIT. THIS ALLOWS PRO-GEN TO BE USED STRAIGHTAWN WITH MOST POPULAR VIDEO SOUPWENT, WITHOUT THE KEED TO HUNT DOWN THE CORRECT CONNECTING CABLES. THIS KIT CAN ALSO BE USED TO CONNECT IN OTHER WAYS.—

BY USER TO VER BE.

A KITTO START YOU OFF RIGHT FROM THE MOMENT YOU OPEN THE BOX!!!

OWEF

PHO-GEN with Photon Paint 2.0 ONLY £99.95 **PRO-GEN** with

Mode Switch-box for Genlocks

Features Include -Compatible With The Pro-Gen And Rendale 8802 -Supplied With Genlock Extender Cable Worth £9.95 -Switch-box Switches Between Foreground, Back-ground, Video And Computer Modes.

£29.95

AMIGA DRIVES & MEMORY

Cumana CAX354 3.5' External 2nd Disk Drive.

- → Features Include
- Long connecting cable
- 1Mb, (880K Formatted)
- Capacity Enable/Disable Switch,
- Throughport
- Access Light
- Compatible with Amiga 500/1000/1500/2000/3000 and CDTV

£57.95



NOW SUPPLIED WITH A

3.5" DISK HEAD CLEANER

for optimum reliability

BLACK CDTV COMPATIBLE VERSION AVAILABLE NOW!!!

NEW! GVP 52-105Mb HARD DISK DRIVE WITH MEMORY EXPANSIONS OF UP TO 8Mb.

- Capacities of 52 or 105Mb available
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- Sockets for up to 8 Mb of RAM expansion
- SCSI Port allows up to 7 other devices to be connected
- Supplied with easy to use software
- 2 Year Warranty Complete with dedicated PSU
- Mini slot for future expansion capabilities
- PC-AT Emulator planned to be available for 1992

(0	RAM	CAPA	CITY	
Ä	SIZE	52Mb.	105Mb.	
RIC	0Mb.	£359.95	£549.95	١,
Р	2Mb.	£429.95	£629.95	ŀ
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ADD MORE POWER TO YOUR AMIGA 500 PLUS WITH A FULL 1Mb. MEMORY UPGRADE!!!

- 1Mb. RAM expansion for the Amiga 500 Plus
- Gives a total of 2Mb. of RAM
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- ☆ Low power consumption 2 Yr Guarantee!
- A GREAT NEW OFFER FROM HARWOODS

O.5 Mb PRO-RAM

- ☆ Compatible with Amiga A500 and 500 Plus
 ☆ Gives A500 a total of 1Mb Memory + Clock
 ☆ Gives 500 Plus a total of 1.5Mb Memory

Music-X: The ultimate software for professional MIDI sequencing. The software includes a configurable librarian and a synthesiser patch editor. All you need to recreate a song can be recalled from one performance file including sequences, MIDI routing, sync setup, keyboard maps & synthesiser or drum machine patch libraries. NEW LOW PRICES - £54.95 or just £74.95 with midi-interface!

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Vidi, The Complete Colour Solution: Vidi with RGB Splitter, Frame Grabber & Digitiser. Grabs moving colour video into 16 grey scale frames (up to 16 frames in 1Mb. Amiga) and digitises from still colour video source in up to 4096 colours in less than 1 second! Requires home VCR or video camera for grabbing. Requires video camera or VCR with perfect pause for digitising. Now comes with Photon Paint 2.0 ABSOLUTELY FREE OF CHARGE!!!

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THE ABOVE IS JUST A SMALL SAMPLE FROM OUR EXTENSIVE RANGE OF THOUSANDS OF SERIOUS, EDUCATION AND RECREATION
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Pen Pal_{v.1.3}



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Excellent paper handling facilities

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16K Buffer, 8 Resident Fonts
Push/pull tractor & rear/bottom feeds
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Push and pull tractor built-in Best
Feed for labels/multi part stationery 2 Yes

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 Best text quality in our 9Pin range
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Complete with AC adaptor

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Easy to use LCD panel controls

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NEW FASTER STAR XB 24 PIN COLOUR RANGE XB24-200 & XB24-250 - 275/80 cps These NEW top of the range Stars replace the XB24/10 & XB24/15, & offer the best possible quality dot matrix printing

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☐ Exceptional print quality
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Our best quality full colour printer at a realistic price

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Parallel/Centronics or Serial RS232 I/F (specify with order, MAC option available)

For presentation graphics/DTP, CAD and technical/scientific applications

A full page of colour graphics in 4 minutes (typical)

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A4 Laser Printer, will connect to PC, Amiga, Atari ST, Macintosh etc.

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□ 300 DPI, 2Mb. Upgradable to 5Mb.
□ Emulations inc: HP Series II, Epson EX800, IBM Proprinter & Diable 630 □ Complete with "Starscript" (Stars postscript language emulation)

Serial and Parallel Interfaces
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49 quality fonts bullt-in
Appletals for connection to Macintosh
Every desktop publishers dream

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PRINTER ACCESSORIES

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Automatic SheetFeeder

Dual Bin SheetFeeder

Dual Bin SheetFeeder



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£429.95

PRINTER	PRINTER TYPE	BLACK RIBBON	BLACK RIBBON 'SIX PACK'	COLOUR RIBBON	COLOUR RIBBON 'SIX PACK'
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CITIZEN 124	BLACK ONLY	£4.95	£24.95	N/A	N/A
CITIZEN SWIFT 9	BLACK/COLOUR	£4.95	£24.95	£16.95	£99.95
SWIFT 24/24E/224	BLACK/COLOUR	£4.95	£24.95	£16.95	£99.95
STAR LC10/20	BLACK/COLOUR	£4.95	£24.95	£6.90	£36.50
STAR LC200	BLACK/COLOUR	£6.95 ZX9	£36.95 ZX9	£12.95 zxecl	£69.95 zxecl
STAR LC24/200	BLACK/COLOUR	£8.95 Z24	£49.95 Z24	£14.95 x24CL	£74.95 x24CL
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A500, CGA PC,\C16-64-128. It's important to remember that most TV Monitors, are still first and foremost televisions, meaning that their average 400 pixel tube display

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SUPERB DEFINITION PHILIPS MONITOR TV. IDEAL FOR AMIGA OR CDTV USERS, GIVING FOR THE FIRST TIME TRUE MONITOR QUALITY FROM A FULL FEATURE TELETEXT TV AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE!!!. JUST LOOK AT THE FEATURES. CONNECTOR THOSE PERSONNEL FEEL FEEL TO AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICEINS 3051 EVOIA THE PERSONNEL SHEET SCALLTE RECEIVER RGB/AD, Composite Video & audio inputs FULL TELETEXT FACILITIES (FOR THIS FACILITY EXTERNAL AERIAL SHOULD BE USED) Headphone Jack Socket FULL TWO YEAR GUARANTEE 2000 CHARACTER HIGH DEFINITION FST TUBE SUPPLIED WITH LOOP AERIAL REMOTE CONTROL FREE lead for YOUR computer (IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE MONITOR TV IN OUR PACKS 2, 3, AND \$269.95\$ POWERPRO, AT NO EXTRA COST, TO REPLACE THE 8833/II, SIMPLY ADVISE US AT THE TIME OF ORDERING)

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HIGH DENSITY 3.5"DISK 60P EACH

(OR 100 3.5" DS/HD FOR £61 INCL. P &P / LABELS/VAT)

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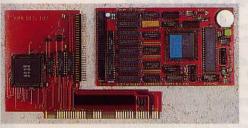


This is a first for the Amiga, and it's a program that has its origins on the Atari ST remember those? Recently converted to the Amiga, this package promises to take you step by step through a

number of drawing lessons, teaching the basics of real drawing such as perspective, anatomy, how to draw cartoons and so on. It comes complete with a built-in paint package called *Level One*, which attempts to keep it simple by avoiding the use of menus. It's an intriguing idea, but the software house is an unknown quantity for us Amiga owners so wait to see the review next month.

KCS POWER PC BOARD

£219.95 INC MS-DOS BITCON 091-490 1919



One of the two most popular PC emulator cards there is, and now it's available in two new forms. First, there's an

A500 Plus version, tailored to work on the new system, with the 1Mb memory (which the card adds to your Amiga's normal RAM) configured as Chip memory. Second, there's an adaptor card now available for an extra £74.95, that means you can install the Power PC Board inside an Amiga 1500, 2000 or 3000.

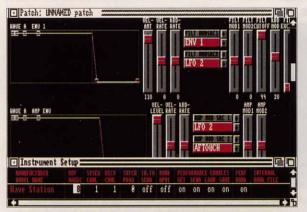
Version 3 of the board now extends the power of the emulator, which works in all PC graphics modes with a memory availability of 704K in the lower graphics modes and 640K in EGA or VGA. The processor runs at a reasonable 11MHz, but inevitably the system will slow down considerably when it's trying to run VGA. The company reckon that most hard drives are supported and most software will run on the emulator, but we will be giving it a full test very soon.

Coming Contraptions

Here's a sneaky advance glimpse of the delights that are ready for release, as we take our regular look at the creative and useful software and hardware that wil help you get the most out of your Amiga. Don't forget to check coming issues for in-depth reviews of the following...

DR T'S X-OR

£219 BLUE RIBBON VIA ZONE 081-766 6564



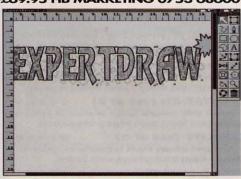
It comes with a serious price tag, but this is a serious tool for serious musicians. Coming from US software house Dr T's, the top name in music software for the Amiga, this is basically a universal patch editor that allows you to pre-program and re-program new sounds for all sorts of synthesizers and tone modules.

The range of musical hardware supported is bewilderingly large and

new extensions are being provided all the time, so it's best to phone Zone and check if you're in any doubt as to whether your particular kit is supported. The software uses a systems-exclusive method so that sounds may be ported about at random, and all your MIDI gear can remain on-line at all times with a simple on-screen switching system so that you can also try out your sounds in development. This looks like a real winner, but our forthcoming review will show if it has any major advantages over specific tailored patch librarian systems.

EXPERT DRAW

£69.95 HB MARKETING 0753 68600



This one is really set to change the face of Amiga software as we know it. It's the first of what will hopefully become a series of Amiga software, sourced by UK distributor HB Marketing. HBM have been travelling Europe in search of high-quality programs that have not previously been translated into English, and

are undertaking translating the program text and the manuals into English before selling the series over here at a highly competitive price.

The first in the series, *Expert Draw*, is a real stunner. It's translated from a German original and it's a structured drawing program that competes directly with *Professional Draw* from Gold Disk. We've taken a brief look at the program and, quite apart from having all the features you could want from a drawing package of this kind, it looks faster and more solid than *Professional Draw*, as well as coming in considerably cheaper.

This is exactly the sort of thing that needs to happen to the Amiga at the moment: a top-quality package coming in at a reasonable price so that people who haven't tried a particular area of Amiga use before will be encouraged to explore. Read the full review next month, but we reckon this could go straight onto our "you have to buy it" list.

Second in the Expert series is this Frenchoriginated 3D modelling and rendering program. In A CONTRACT SALE OF THE CONTRAC

essence, the way this one works is simple enough: it allows you to create objects from primitives (basic shapes) and then build them up until you've created your car, house, spaceship or whatever. You then switch to the rendering mode, where the program will fill in the surface of your shape in any of a number of preset textures.

It's possible that the lower price reflects this, but we're not quite so confident that this second program in the *Expert* series will be quite such a smash hit: it looks just a little bit quirky and complex, the way most 3D modelling and rendering programs tend to be. All the same, at the price it looks as if it could be well worth exploring.

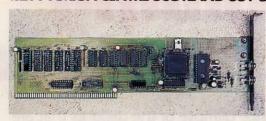
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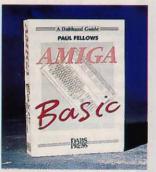
An extraordinary rethink of the video digitiser concept, this card for the Amiga 1500, 200 or 300 promises to bring a new simplicity to video digitising. Developed in Germany and still being translated into English by ACS, the system is based around hardware that includes television chips to grab

frames from a normal, ordinary YUV signal. These frames are stored in a framebuffer on the card and then passed on to the Amiga and translated into an appropriate Amiga file format, with HAM and 24-bit supported.

The clever thing about the system is that it can be plugged straight in to an ordinary video source and grabs the full YUV video signal with no need to use an RGB splitter. This should give improvements in the quality of the image as well as in ease of use. The software provides a moving 'preview image' which is an animation based on signal input, so while it's not quite the full motion video source, it removes the need for you to use a separate monitor. All very clever. We're trying out some initial experiments now and we will be bringing you a full review next issue so watch this space.

AMIGA BASIC

£15.99 DABS PRESS 061-773 8632



It's a great idea, but you have to doubt the timing. Just after Commodore have stopped putting AmigaBasic in with every new Amiga that is sold, a book arrives on how to use AmigaBasic. Ho hum.

All the same, if you have an older Amiga and have a copy of AmigaBasic lying around that you've never really got to grips with, this might tempt you to make the effort. It's not the first book on the subject (Abacus, the largest book publisher for the Amiga, also do a book on using AmigaBasic) but it's certainly the newest and, I would hazard a guess, very likely to be the last.

This book is packed with information and seems (on a quick flick through) to be very comprehensive and yet at the

same time to take quite a simple, steady, step-by-step approach. Above all, it's crammed with listings which you can type in to get practical examples of what's going on as you learn about any particular subject. It looks like an excellent book on the subject: is anyone interested?

COMPENDIUM SIX

£39 (CHECK!) GENISOFT 0753 686000



Good value doesn't come into it: this pack of six programs on six separate disks has to be one of the best deals ever seen. Provided, that is, you've got any use for the programs. Every program in the pack is from the recent Genisoft line-up of simple, accessible educationallyorientated packages designed to help parents get the most out of the home Amiga. These were originally all released separately, so it's probably their lack of sales as

stand-alone programs that has prompted the release of the pack.

Putting them in the Compendium pack, however, makes the programs a much more exciting proposition, simply because each one is so specialised. If you saw them individually you might think "What, exactly, do I need that for?", but brought together as a group they become full of intriguing possibilities.

Star of the package for us is the word processor for kids, entitled Kidstype, which exactly reflects the sort of thing used in primary schools for teaching computer literacy. But there's a strong supporting cast, too.

Weather Watcher is a meteorological exploration program which helps kids record and analyse weather data and create their own weather maps. What is it? Where is it? teaches the geography of the counties of Great Britain in the form of a fun game, while Calendar Quiz approaches the complex subject of dates in a similar way. Game Set and Match is a matching game that tests recognition of a wide variety of things, from shapes and colours to numbers and coins. Finally, Words and Numbers tests knowledge of how sentences are made up and how groups of numbers relate with a number of simple games.

All in all, this is an excellent pack for parents and has to be one of the bargains of the year.

'Serious' reviews

This is the section of the magazine dedicated to bringing you honest and intelligent reviews of the latest 'serious' releases in hardware and software.

From expansions such as extra memory and hard drives through to useful, practical utilities to the latest in 'productivity' (DTP, databases) and 'creativity' (paint, animation, 3D and music) software, it's all in here.

Two years running, Amiga Format has been voted by computer retailers as the magazine that they most trust when they're deciding what to stock, so you can see that we're the people best placed to advise you on what to buy. With our expert knowledge, we know what's the best program to date for any particular kind of job, and we'll see how anything new stacks up against the best in the business.

Contents

A big and brilliant 'serious' section for you to pore over, and it's full to the brim with Format Golds.

The first of our reviews on the updates of the two best DTP packages for the Amiga. How does Gold Disk's offering fare.

PAGESTREAM124 ...when compared to Soft Logik's newly released Pagestream,

turn the pages and find out the bottom line.

PRO CALC.....129 Find out why Gold Disk's new spreadsheet is even better than

the current top dog, Advantage. CALIGARI 2138

Another big update, in the 3D world but is this cheaper, domestic version what the artists have been waiting for?

EASY AMOS.....144

AMOS was meant to be the easy way to program, but still people found it difficult to get their heads round; not any more!

PRESENTATION MASTER151

Straight from Oxxi, a flashy slide-presentation system and a computer-based teaching system all-in-one.

AUDIO ENGINEER PLUS138

Another stunner of an update, and on a sampling package that was already top notch!

How the Ratings System works

SPEED (marked out of 5)

Tremendously important for both hardware and software: there's nothing more annoying than waiting. A purely intuitive judgement.

DOCUMENTATION (out of 5) Although there are some packages that are so simple no manual is

needed, complex items benefit hugely from a good explanation. ACCESSIBILITY (out of 5)

The target for all good software should be powerful but simple: this rating assesses how easy it is to get to grips with the item.

FEATURES (out of 5)

Does it do what you want it to do? How well does it do it? And does it also do lots of other things that you'd never have thought of?

VALUE (out of 5)

A pretty important rating, this one: if a package does everything you could wish for, it's no use to you unless you can afford to buy it.



The Verdict, our at-a-glance overall rating, is a percentage: it's based on sheer quality but with the price taken into account, so that you know what kind of a deal you get.



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WATCH THIS SPACE





For the last few years Gold Disk's Professional Page has been the undisputed king of the Amiga DTP circuit. Marcus Dyson compares the latest version against long-time rival PageStream, and reaches some surprising conclusions.

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Desk Top Publisher ■ £249 ■ Gold Disk

RIGHT FROM THE word go, Professional Page has always been the top dog in highquality Amiga DTP. With little brother PageSetter being the definitive entry-level package, Gold Disk seemed to have the lead in this prestigious race all sewn up. But ask any long-distance runner; leading from the front is a tricky business. Your competition get to ape your strengths and learn from your mistakes.

In an attempt to consolidate their position as leaders in the field, Gold Disk have just released a new version of ProPage, but is it a big enough step forward to see off the rivals?

ProfessionalPage 3 certainly lives up to the first part of its name, the professional part that is. It absolutely requires that you have a hard drive. Yes, I do mean ABSOLUTELY. The only icons that appear when you load the disk are the install icons (one for the program and one for the fonts). These must be dragged to your chosen directory and double clicked on. At this juncture the program will be installed, a few on-screen prompts giving you the choice to customise it to a small extent.

As well as the hard drive, to obtain the only true benefit version 3 has over 2.1 you have to have AmigaDOS 2. Add this to the flicker fixer and accelerator cards you would be well advised to purchase, and it becomes very obvious that ProPage is a pro's tool.

The explanation of this seeming desire to make ProPage exclusively high-end comes from its geographical roots. You see Gold Disk are a very American company (well, a bit Canadian too), and in America A500s don't exactly sell by the barrow load. No! it's true, over there the serious market is seen to be exclusively A1500/2000/3000. So many software and hardware developers don't feel the need to support the lowly A500. It's not that they have anything against the vanilla Amiga per se, just that the market doesn't exist to make it worth their while.

Several years ago when I first became a DTP user I would gaze in covetous awe at the ProPage ads. Back in those days it would run on my 1.2 Amiga from floppy disk in just one MegaByte of RAM. Now several years later, as the Art Editor of a hugely successful international magazine I am in a position to go out and buy whatever DTP package I want. Would it still be ProfessionalPage? If I had been asked that question a couple of weeks ago I

ProfessionalPage had the Workbench 2 look even before Workbench 2 did. By Amiga standards ProPage offers very good screen previews of imported bitmap pictures. Text rendering on screen is good, but it needs to be because the program doesn't allow more than 200 per cent magnification.



The recent series of Pearl jam gigs in London revealed an interesting phenomenon, fans are polarising around either Nirvana or Pearl Jam. The fains of Curt Cobain's band see Pearl Jam as hype-fuelled bandwagon jumpers, who's presence on the international rock circuit will only detract from the impact of Nirvana's incredible success. Whereas usually such fans would embrace both of two bands with such similarity of style and direction, this time the battle lines are drawn. Maybe it's not so surprising, after all would Epic records have been so eager to sign a left feild American guitar band if Nirvana's second album 'Nevermind' hadn't exceeded it's expected

wouldn't have hesitated to say yes. But that was a couple of weeks ago. Since then I've encountered PageStream 2.2 and been very pleasantly surprised.

The main reason for ProPage's increased hardware appetite is the new macroing system it uses, called Genies. This system is a way to access the ARexx language included with Workbench 2. The inclusion of Genies may be the biggest single change to ProPage 3, but there are a few others too. They include: an undo feature to allow you to correct your errors; five new Agfa Compugraphic fonts, bringing the total included with the program to seven; improved colour separation; compatibility with more word processors and a Hot Link system to connect to ProDraw for

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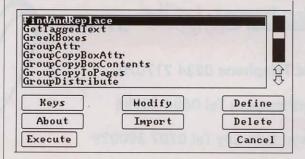
Soundgarden's C

Guitarma ggedon

I DREAM OF GENIES



On the ProfessionalPage control panel there used to be a mop icon which did exactly the same as the one on your copy of PageSetter; erase the contents of the selected box. ProPage has moved this feature to the box menu. In the position of the old mop icon is the new icon shown at the right. This is the Genie icon. Genies are macros. Lots of programs allow you to write macros to allow several operations to be batched in one command. ProPage has gone one step further by incorporating Workbench 2's ARexx programming language into its system.

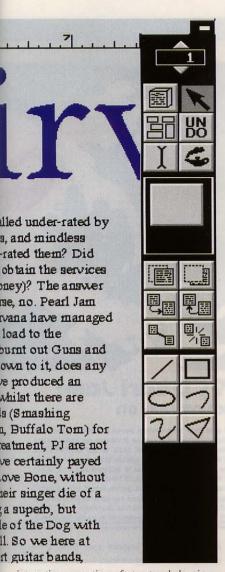


By pressing the Genie button you bring up this requester on the left, which displays the Genies that are available. More than 30 Genies are included with the program, but you can create your own, or edit the ones provided so they better suit your needs.

The provided Genies allow you to do things like create drop shadows (never the easiest task), tabulate spreadsheet information, or perform mail merges.

Page layout styles (letterheads, newssheets, envelopes) can also be defined as





interactive correction of structured drawings. All these enhancements do have equivalents in *PageStream* 2, although the *PageStream* macro system is not really a match for Genies.

The true test of a DTP package is in the using, when you are working with a program all day, every day, you expect a good interface. Gold Disk addressed this problem with ProPage 2, which pre-empted Workbench 2 by having its own 'shades of grey' 3D style interface. This was long before Commodore unveiled the AmigaDOS 2 programmer's guidelines. While this made PP3 the epitome of a good-looking program when it came out, it now looks a little passé. It's hard to pinpoint exactly why this is, because at first glance they got everything right. But in comparison with new programs, who have adhered strictly to the AmigaDOS 2 guidelines, the interface looks just a little unsubtle.

Appearances aside, the *Professional Page 3* menus can be a little confusing. The program makes extensive use of submenus, so the item you want is not always immediately obvious. Searching through the menus is made difficult by the slow speed at which they redraw, so by the time a menu is fully visible it can easily have been overshot, and the next one have started to draw up. This stops being a problem though, once the user becomes fairly familiar

A FISTFUL OF FEATURES



Professional
Page provides
new users with
seven Agfa
Compugraphic
fonts. Although
this is a smaller
selection than
the one that is
provided with
PageStream,
the choice of

fonts is a little more 'mature'. Some of the fonts that come with PageStream tend to be a little more on the novelty side, and will be of less practical use. Gold Disk have selected a choice of six very solid fonts that will be useable in a wide variety of applications, and only one novelty font.



Changing the colour of text in ProfessionalPage is simply a matter of selecting the text, and going to the colour option in the

text menu. You are then presented with this requester box. If the colour you want is in the menu then just double click on it, or click once on the colour and once on the OK gadget. If the colour you want isn't already on the menu, select the palette gadget...



...and you will be presented with this requester. Before you can create your colour you MUST name it, and press return, otherwise PP3 will not allow you to do anything.

Once your colour is named, you just select custom or mechanical (non-separating) and mix it using the slide bars. A representation of your colour will appear in the colour well on the right.



example on the left.

To change the attributes of a box, select the 'box-alter-active' menu, and this requester will appear. This is a very important section of the program, in the same way that its equivalent in this month's PageSetter Coverdisk is.

Most of the options are self explanatory.
Locking a box anchors its position on the page, preventing it from being moved by accident. Position defines the box's location and size. Clicking the frame gadget activates the frame, but this must be given a width and colour in the object menu.

We are interested in the rotation angle, which if we set to 270 degrees will produce text reading downwards like the

with the program's excellent system of keyboard shortcuts.

The screen background is a dull grey colour as opposed to *PageStream*'s bright paper white which is more pleasant to work on for prolonged periods. And when box outlines are turned on they are rather crude, as are the huge resize handles. This gives the program a far less professional look than it deserves.

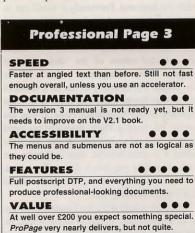
Screen magnification is available as a submenu of the preferences menu, but only preselected steps are available, the maximum being 200 per cent, which is not adequate for fine alignment work.

The increased number of compatible text file formats is very welcome, as *ProPage* was lacking in this department previously. The redraw speed for text placed at an angle has increased dramatically, and text redraw overall is reasonably quick. There is no facility to manipulate text on the page, with the exception of the obvious: size; leading; alignment etc. More complex transformations like backslanting, curving and skewing of text must be carried out in a structured drawing program like Gold Disk's own *ProDraw*.

Agfa Compugraphic typefaces are the only outline fonts compatible with *ProPage*, and Gold Disk are one of the few companies that avail these on Amiga disk. Amiga bitmap fonts are obviously useable, but they are of limited use in a program of this quality.

ProfessionalPage is fairly restrictive because of the number of graphic file formats that it can import, and none can be edited on screen. Besides IFF bitmaps, Aegis Draw and ProDraw images, Professional Page 3 can now import EPS files.

Its limitations aside *ProfessionalPage* is the program that defined the area of serious Amiga DTP, and it is still a very strong performer. It has full PostScript compatibility, and can produce superb colour separated film ready for four-colour printing. It is used by many DTP professionals, and the Canadian magazine *Amigo Times* was laid out exclusively using the program. So it's pedigree is quite indisputable.



erdici **89%**



In the three horse race of professional Amiga DTP the early favourite, ProPage, faces some stiff competition, not least from Soft-Logik's PageStream.

Marcus Dyson takes a look at where all the smart money's going.

PageStream 2.2

Desk Top Publisher ■ £199 ■ Soft Logic

IN AN ATTEMPT to wrest the Amiga DTP crown from *ProPage*, Soft Logic have released a revised edition of their top DTP program *PageStream*. Version 2.2 is more than just a revision of 2.1, but it's available at zero cost to registered users of the previous version. But the changes to the new version are significant enough to attract new buyers.

The AmigaDOS 2 interface guidelines have been adhered to, so the program has a more professional look than before. It is a good thing that different programs, from different software companies, are finally starting to have similar looking interfaces. This familiarity of front end makes new programs less daunting to new users. This is one of the reasons why Apple Macintosh are so successful in the design field; where artists are sometimes reticent to approach new technology. Certainly the new style interface and requester boxes in PageStream are very easy to get to grips with. The program's features are all accessible through the menus and a series of logical requester boxes. Submenus are not used to any great extent and arcane typographic terms are avoided in favour of more understandable words (ie line spacing not leading).

Possibly the most important improvement over V2.1 is that PageStream is now stable in a 1Mb environment. Previously it would run in 1 Meg but recovery from low memory situations was dodgy, and crashes were frequent unless more RAM was available. Soft Logik may consider others of the 'thousands' of changes more important. But it is PageStream's (PS) ability to run on a standard Amiga from floppy disks that gives it its main advantage over Professional Page. If you are running PS from a more modestly-equipped machine however, beware of the interlace flicker; it is quite horrific. Any long-term use of PS absolutely requires a flicker fixer card. As with any Amiga DTP, an accelerator would greatly improve things too.

Although a hard drive isn't essential for the use of *PageStream*, potential users would be well advised to have them. When you spend this kind of money on a program you want to get the best out of it, and storing lots of outline fonts and structured clip art takes up plenty of disk space. Once you start thinking about

PageStream has a simple and attractive interface that allows easy control over a host of powerful features. Screen display of text is excellent (this doesn't show here because our picture grabbing technique de-interlaces the picture). Redraw time is good by Amiga standards, even if text is rotated or skewed. As with all Amiga DTP programs, the inability to display imported bitmapped pictures in colour lets it down, as does overall speed of operation.



using 24-bit images, which can easily be more than 1Mb per file, floppies are out of the window. So a hard drive is definitely a good idea.

If you *are* using a hard drive, installing *PageStream* is a simple matter of running the install utility from the program disk. The program and fonts will be placed on your hard drive in a directory called *PageStream2*.

PageStream can import text from a wide variety of word processors – as you would expect. But our personal favourite, *ProText*, isn't featured. WP compatibility is controlled by modules which are dropped in the 'drivers' drawer, so a future module may facilitate this.

The formats that are supported are ProWrite, Excellence, WordPerfect, 1st Word,



The hype machine rolly on

The recent series of Pearl Jam gags in London revealed an interesting phanomenon, fair we polarising around either Arrana or Pearl Jam. The fairs of Curl Cobain's band see Pearl Jam as hype-facilities that fair the fair of Curl Cobain's band see Pearl Jam as hype-facilities that fair the fair section in the interestions i rock circuit will only detract from the impact of Arrana's meredible success. Whereas usually such fair would embrace both of two bands with such similarity of fyire and direction, that time the battle lines are drawn. Maybe it's not so surprising, after all would lipse records have been so eager to right a laif faild American guitar band if Airwana's recond album 'Nevermind' hadn't exceeded it's extected 40% raies by some

I FONT TO BE ALONE



PageStream comes complete with a number of quality fonts. Three are Agfa Compugraphic, eight are PageStream format. The title of this box-out aside, alone is one thing you will never be if you are a *PageStream* font. The program comes complete with a complete range of quality fonts. If like most designers you have particular tastes or requirements in typefaces, *PageStream* is compatible with both Abobe Type One fonts and Agfa Compugraphic typefaces, as well as Soft Logik's massive library of *PageStream* fonts. The Soft Logik font library is massive and of a very high quality. If you want to share your fonts with other programs however, you will need to use a more widespread format.

Adobe Type One fonts are extremely popular in the Mac world, as they are the standard for use with printers using Adobe's PostScript file format.

Postscript printers are capable of very high quality output, and for this reason are extremely popular in serious DTP organisations. In fact the Linotronic

machine that the pages of **Amiga Format** are printed on is a PostScript device. Adobe fonts aren't commonly available on Amiga disk at present, so they have to be downloaded via a Mac or PC. Amiga availability is very likely to improve, now that quality DTP packages like *PageStream* are supporting Abode PostScript fonts.

Agfa Compugraphic fonts are rapidly becoming the standard for Amiga DTP programs, but they are not yet fully sorted. Agfa fonts occasionally refuse to print at certain sizes. Although this problem is rare, and only affects output sizes of around one inch. Changing the output size solves the problem, and at a size of 144pt (equivalent to an inch) there is plenty of scope for adjusting your size without compromising your design.



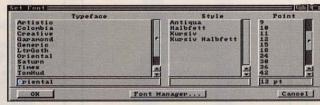


ANY LAST REQUESTERS

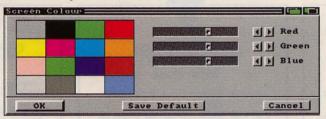
One of PageStream's many strengths is the flexibility and accessibility of its requester boxes. Many powerful features are easily accessible through simple-to-use AmigaDOS 2-style windows, let's take a look at a few.



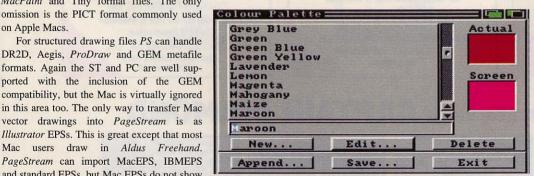
The new document requester allows you to choose the size of your page from a selection of options, or define your own custom size. The A-series of sizes are offered as well as American sizes, and each is measured in the appropriate system (imperial or metric). Choosing a double-sided document allows you to have two master pages, and to view facing pages on screen, although only the page on the left may be edited.



Choosing a font for a given piece of text is simply a matter of selecting the font/size item from the style menu. All the available fonts are listed, complete with any family styles for Compugraphic fonts. The Font Manager button at bottom centre allows the addition of fonts from different directories, ProPage CG fonts, for instance, must remain in their own folder.



The maximum number of colours available on screen is 16, these can be edited to best suit the actual colours of your document. It is possible for different actual colours to have the same screen colour. If this occurs text may not be visible against its background, editing of screen colours can solve this problem.



Your document can use as many actual colours as you require. New colours can be created, edited, deleted or added from another document using the colour palette menu. The program supports CMYK and Pantone colour mixing for printing and HSV, HSB/L and YIQ for TV and video work.

drawings enter PageStream as a grouped object, and can be ungrouped and edited much as if they were in a drawing package.

As with all Amiga DTP programs the screen representation is in a very limited number of colours. The default is four, to allow the 3D style requester boxes. Between two and 16 colours can be used, but there is a trade off for speed against the number of colours.

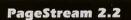
The colour output facilities are much more powerful, though, since PageStream is fully PostScript compatible, and the latest version now has the ability to colour separate EPS files. Also new to version 2.2 is Pantone colour specification.

One feature of PS, which seems a little strange, is that you can place guides - and anything else you want to be repeated on every page - on a master page. But you can't edit (or delete) any of them once they are in the document. This means that columns created on the master page cannot be filled with text once in the document. This, coupled with the fact that documents can have only one master page (two for double-sided documents), could have been a serious limitation. What saves the program from criticism here, though, is that documents can be saved as templates for other pages. This feature is very well executed, because templates open up as 'untitled' documents to prevent you from saving over them.

Given its useful features: automatic page numbering; support for HPGL (used by Laserjets and Plotters); the ability to edit structured drawings on the page and its incredible text manipulation abilities, PageStream is a powerful DTP package. It would be possible to layout Amiga Format using PageStream, given a sufficiently powerful machine. The graphic interface is superb and the program is intuitive, any one who has used an Amiga or a DTP package before should have no problem finding their way around PageStream.

If you're going to do serious DTP on the Amiga, there's absolutely no reason why you shouldn't do it with PageStream.

ProPage has finally met its match



No Amiga DTP programs are fast enough. PageStream is creditably quick though.

DOCUMENTATION

The manual is not for the completely uninitiated, but it is superb for those with a little knowledge.

....

....

ACCESSIBILITY

If you've used any DTP program (even PageSetter) getting started won't take long.

FEATURES

Everything you need for professional quality DTP from the Amiga.

VALUE

All you could want for less than £200. As good as ProPage for £50 less.



For structured drawing files PS can handle DR2D, Aegis, ProDraw and GEM metafile formats. Again the ST and PC are well supported with the inclusion of the GEM compatibility, but the Mac is virtually ignored in this area too. The only way to transfer Mac vector drawings into PageStream is as Illustrator EPSs. This is great except that most Mac users draw in Aldus Freehand. PageStream can import MacEPS, IBMEPS and standard EPSs, but Mac EPSs do not show

popular word processor in France we are

informed). Non supported text formats can be

imported as ASCII text, and the option to

choose between line feeds every line, or every

bitmapped pictures IFF is supported in stan-

dard HAM and 24-bit flavours. The IMG

format used on PCs and STs is indeed useable,

as are the ST's own NeoChrome and Degas

formats. TIFF files are supported, plus GIF,

MacPaint and Tiny format files. The only

on Apple Macs.

An even larger array of picture file formats can be imported into PS. When it comes to

paragraph makes formatting of text easier.

a screen representation because their preview

files are PICTs.

Once either text or structured drawings have been imported, Pagestream can manipulate both of them whilst in a document. Text can be rotated, skewed or twisted. Structured

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The NEW Adventures Of CAPTAIN DIAMOND









Jason Holborn

NO ONE COULD SERIOUSLY claim that spreadsheets are terribly exciting things, but useful they most certainly are. If you've eve had to slave over a balance sheet (or indee anything that requires a large number of com plex calculations) with nothing more than pencil and a calculator to keep yourself com pany, then you'll find a spreadsheet a absolute god-send.

Unlike most humans, spreadsheets are ter ribly good at handling numbers. Indeed, the absolutely love them. Simply by feeding i lots of numbers and then telling it how the relate, the spreadsheet will handle the tedious task of performing all the calculations. If you then decide to change any of the values within your spreadsheet, the computer automatically recalculates the sheet for you, saving you from the tedious task of recalculating the whole sheet yourself.

What's more, computers never make mistakes, so - providing you haven't made a mistake telling it how to calculate your spreadsheet (GIGO!) - you'll get 100 per cent correct results every time.

Gold Disk is certainly no stranger to the spreadsheet market. Its Amiga spreadsheet program Advantage is already generally regarded as the number one Amiga spreadsheet, so it comes as no surprise that its new Professional Calc spreadsheet is based heavily upon Advantage. ProCalc boasts an all-new Workbench 2.0-like user interface (complete with the now standard bass-relief gadgets and requesters), but has the same smooth and logical way of working that made Advantage such

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his accounts on	AMIGA FO	RMAT EXP	ENSES	P	-	
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all adds up to a quite	9 Swartz Bros 10 McDonalds 11 Hatchetts 12 The Sandwich	£12.45 £11.98 £25.60 £15.00	£10.90 £6.30 £18.90 £17.00	£12.00 £11.98 £25.60 £15.00	£12.45 £11.98 £23.08 £15.00	£12.45 £11.98 £18.00 £15.00
remarkable new package.	13 14 15 16 17 Drink	£65.03	£53.10	£64.58	£62,43	£57.43
ONE COULD SERIOUSLY claim that dsheets are terribly exciting things, but	18 19 Hatchetts The Griffin Moles The Loft	£19.20 £3.20 £0.00 £6.70	£6.00 £3.20 £6.00 £6.70	£19.28 £3.28 £0.00 £6.70	£19.28 £3.28 £2.88 £6.78	£19.20 £3.20 £0.00 £6.70
I they most certainly are. If you've ever o slave over a balance sheet (or indeed ing that requires a large number of com-	Total Drink 25 26 27 Other Expenses	£29.10	£21.98	£29.10	£31.10	£29.10
calculations) with nothing more than a	28 29 30 Maff's Shaver Dame's Hair Ci 31 Pat's Rizlas		£4.50 £10.00 £25.00	£4.50 £6.00 £18.00	£4.58 £12.08 £25.88	£4.50 £12.00 £25.00
then you'll find a spreadsheet an	Total Other	£41.50	£39.50	£28.50	£41.50	£41.50
ute god-send.	Total Expenses	£135.63	£114.50	£122.18	£135.03	£128.03
Inlike most humans, spreadsheets are tergood at handling numbers. Indeed, they	Budget	£120.00	£120.00	£120.00	£120.00	£120.00
utely love them. Simply by feeding in of numbers and then telling it how they	se Balance	−£15.63	£5.50	-£2.18	-£15.03	-£8.03

Multiple font sizes and styles aren't just restricted to graphs! With ProCalc, even your spreadsheet can look good.

rofessiona

Spreadsheet ■ £129.96 ■ Gold Disk

PROFESSIONAL CALC

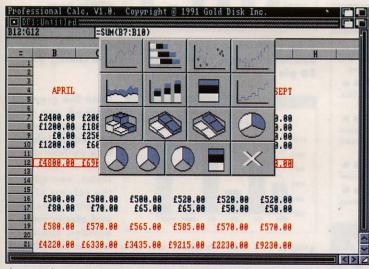
Available from Silica Systems 081-309 1111 a favourite, which virtually ensures ProCalc's success from day one.

It certainly looks and feels like most other spreadsheets, but it doesn't take long to realise that it's something very special indeed. One very nice addition to ProCalc is a new 'Control Panel' that runs along the top of every sheet. Multiple sheets can be loaded simultaneously with each sheet having its own control panel. This panel contains a number of gadgets which allow you to carry out the more

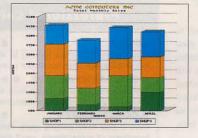
commonly selected functions at the click of a mouse button without having to mess around with the pull-down menus.

Unlike Advantage, ProCalc sheets aren't just restricted to the standard system font. You can now use any standard bitmapped font to make individual cells stand out, mixing and matching to improve the visual impact of your sheet. This works particularly well in SuperHiRes mode (available only on ECS-

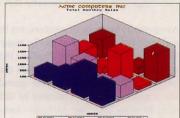
Continued overleaf

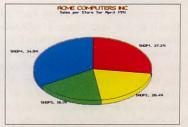


The 'New Chart' requester allows you to choose from 14 different chart types.









So pick the chart that best suits your needs and Pro Calc will display the vital statistics.

30

equipped Amigas), although using multiple fonts can slow down the screen refresh of your sheet considerably.

To ensure compatibility with the rest of the world, ProCalc can read and write spreadsheets in Lotus 1-2-3 format (the IFF of spreadsheet formats). What this basically means for the average Amiga owner is that sheets produced using ProCalc can be ported across onto the PC and other platforms and loaded directly into any one of a number of high-level spreadsheet systems. This sort of compatibility is rare on other systems, but Lotus is such a big name that you'd be hard pushed to find a PC or Mac spreadsheet that didn't at least read Lotus files

The similarities between ProCalc and Lotus don't just stop at file formats either. All spreadsheets offer a set of functions which can be used to 'program' individual cells to carry out mathematical operations. It's a bit like a mini programming language really, although the programs that you write for each cell are restricted to 'one liners' only. ProCalc supports all the functions offered by Lotus 1-2-3, plus a few of its own. In total, there are over 125 functions on offer providing statistical, trigonometric and financial operations.

Another unique feature of ProCalc is its database function which allows you to manipulate data arranged in lists within a spreadsheet. This can be useful when multiple spreadsheets use the same numeric data over and over again. Say you were drawing up a spreadsheet that needed to access payroll information. Instead of having to type all this information in yourself, you could simply define a database that contained the salary details of all your employees. Very useful!

The speed at which ProCalc performs calculations is pretty impressive. Obviously you wouldn't notice any speed differences on simple sheets, but even with larger sheets ProCalc's number-crunching engine rattles along at a phenomenal rate. Indeed the only thing that slows spreadsheet recalculation down is the speed at which the screen is redrawn. This isn't a problem when running ProCalc in standard resolutions, but run it in SuperHiRes with lots of different fonts and then things slow down to a veritable crawl.

Accountants love lots of numbers, but they're not much fun to the rest of us. To make your spreadsheets more readable, ProCalc includes some very powerful graphing options that will take the figures held within your spreadsheet and convert them into a number of different chart formats. There are 14 basic chart types available including line, bar, scatter, area, column and pie charts.

Creating a chart is simplicity itself. All you have to do is to mark a range of cells using the mouse pointer and then select 'New Chart' and a beautifully presented requester pops up onto the screen containing gadgets which represent the 14 basic chart types available. A single click on the chart type you want is all that is needed to set the graphing process in action.

The basic charts on offer do the job well enough, but you can spruce them up no end by altering the various parameters which are associated with each chart type. You can, for example, convert your rather flat-looking bar chart to full 3D, complete with axis lines, a headline in a tasteful font and much more besides. It's all too easy to spend hours just playing around with these graphing functions simply because of the level of control that ProCalc gives you over its charts.

Once you've plotted a chart, it can be printed out to a preference-supported or Postscript printer or saved off to disk for use later. ProCalc allows you to save charts in a variety of different formats including the now obligatory IFF, plus Professional Draw CLIP (ideal for porting graphs directly into Professional Page), Aegis Draw compatible CAD format and EPSF.

With the recent release of Video Director and Professional Page 2.1 (soon to be upgraded to 3.0), it seems that Gold Disk can do no wrong. They've always been seen as one of the leading developers of serious Amiga applications, but their track record over the last year or so must surely see them as a true market leader in the same league as such hard-hitting companies as NewTek and GVP.

It seems that nearly everything that Gold Disk produce these days is virtually perfect and the release of Professional Calc serves only to reinforce this view still further. It undoubtedly lacks in some areas, but what it does it does to perfection. Where ProCalc really scores, though, is in its ease of use. Spreadsheets have always been looked upon as rather dull and unfriendly programs, but using this program is so simple that Gold Disk have managed to make it almost fun to use. This ease of use encourages you to experiment with ProCalc, extending your grasp of its more complex features without the tedium associated with other spreadsheets.

No one could honestly claim that any spreadsheet was 'fun' to use, simply because of the subject matter that the spreadsheet is associated with, but ProCalc is about as close as you'll ever get. If you're looking for a serious spreadsheet that can run rings around the competition, ProCalc is the only choice.

Professional Calc

Slows down a bit when running in HiRes with

lots of fonts, but other than that it's very rapid.

DOCUMENTATION

Just as we've come to expect from Gold Disk, the manual is well written and presented.

ACCESSIBILITY

Even if you have nothing more than a basic knowledge of spreadsheets, you'll find ProCalc an absolute doddle to use.

...

....

FEATURES

No other Amiga spreadsheet even comes close!

VALUE

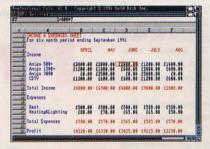
£129.96 may sound like a lot for a spreadsheet, but ProCalc is the business!



FUN WITH NUMBERS

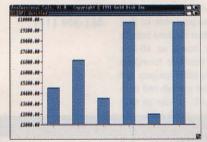


The first step when using any spreadsheet is to define the outline of your sheet. Defining a spreadsheet outline is a little like designing a form, the only difference being that the fields that contain the results of calculations will be filled in by the spreadsheet. At this stage no values are entered, just descriptive text and the formulae that will tell the spreadsheet how to act upon the values that you will later feed to it.



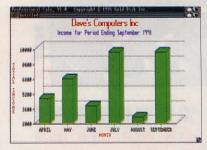
The next step is to start entering all your spreadsheet values. As values are entered, the spreadsheet will automatically update the totals to reflect these new values until the spreadsheet is

complete. This process of spreadsheet recalculation is handled automatically, so you don't even have to tell ProCalc to update its totals. Once all the values are entered, the spreadsheet is complete.



Most conventional spreadsheets stop here, but thanks to the Amiga's powerful graphic facilities, ProCalc can take the values defined within your spreadsheet and turn them into a

more readable graph format. ProCalc supports a large number of graph formats including line charts, 2D and 3D pie and bar charts etc.



Once the graph is defined, you can then customise it by adding labels in a variety of different font styles, changing the colours of certain elements and plenty more besides. These

graphs can then be saved out in a number of different formats including IFF, ProDraw clip format and Postscript-compatible EPS format.

When you are considering purchasing a sound sampler there are plenty to choose from. Why compromise? your choice should be the new full featured STEREO MASTER for the Amiga, with software that is designed from our top selling Amiga sampler AMAS and a package that gives you more extras than a M series BMW. By purchasing this state of the art product which combines a quality sampler with the expertise of over 10 years of software programming, you are purchasing a top quality product with the knowledge that it is not only compatible with existing Microdeal products but will also be with future ones.

What is Stereo Master

Stereo Master is a low cost, high quality sound sampler for the Amiga range of computers. The sampler cartridge included in this package plugs into the printer port at the rear of the computer and allows you to analyze the sounds coming in from devices such as Personal Cassette Players, Compact Disc Players etc., or change the way they sound using the Real Time Special Effects or record them. Once in the computer STEREO MASTERS unique editor will enable you to edit the sound in practically any way you can imagine. Once you have the sound sample how you want it, you may incorporate it into your own Demo's or use STEREO MASTERS own built in sample sequencer to play back the sample in sequence with other samples!



MAIN SCREEN

The Sampling Software

- The Sampling Software

 Every feature you would expect to find in a professional editing suite including;

 * Real time record/play ghost markers

 * Cut or Delete selected sample area

 * Mix sample with full or half volume

 * Shink in by 25%/50%/75% by drag or wipe

 * Fade in/out with selectable degree of fade

 * Filter sample with soft/medium/hard filter

 * Selectable trigger volumes

 * Record frequency from 3.0 to 55.9 Khz

 * Full editing and control facility for left/right channels

- Playback volumes Decrease volume

- Increase volume
 Increase volume
 Bounce sample
 Paste sample
 Trigger recording
 Clear left/right samples
- * Loop sample



THE SPECIAL EFFECTS CONTROL PANEL

The Special Effects SoftwareFor the first time ever you can emulate special sound effects in real time just like the sound labs can for film studios, normally the hardware to produce these effects would cost 100's of times more than this package. Features on the FX menu include;

Built in real time special effects including Echo, Reverb, Ramp, Pitch up/down, Stereo bounce, Multi echo Chorus; Phaser, Reverse and Pitch bend. Fully programmable special effects so that customised effects can be recalled



3D DISPLAY OF SAMPLE FREQUENCIES (FFT)

The Analytical Software

A whole host of pro-type analytical functions include;

* 3D display of sample frequencies (Fast fourier transform)

* 3D display also includes 2D envelope display plus sample information.

* Built in Stereo spectrum analyzer

* Stereo Oscilloscopes with trigger markers



STEREO SPECTRUM ANALYZERS



STEREO OSCILLOSCOPES



THE SEQUENCER CONTROL PANEL

The Sequencing Software
Our built in sample sequencer allows you to take up to 18 samples (memory permitting) and sequence them into your own "tronic" mixes, features on the sequencer include;

* Real time entry of sequences from keypad

* Step time entry of sequences

* 2 stereo channels for sequencing

* 5 storyboard style editing

* Digital sequence position display

* Fast forward/rewind controls

* Program sample to keypad

* Insert/delete sample in step time

* Stand alone demo player displays IFF picture whilst playing sequence



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Other innovative features

We know this product is years ahead of its time and these additional features justify our boast;

* New style stereo cartridge

* Includes walkman type cable

* PAL/NTSC full screen display

Fully multi tasking *
Saves in IFF/Raw/Instrument1/3/5 Octave *

* Includes walkman type cable * PAL/NTSC full screen display * Can create workbench icons

Save customised settings

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VORTEX ATONCE



The Solution in 286 AT Emulation for Amiga 500, Amiga 500-Plus, Amiga 2000

vortex ATonce-classic and vortex ATonce-Plus are the solutions in 286 AT emulation for the Amiga 500, Amiga 500-Plus and Amiga 2000. These emulators convert your Amiga into a PC/AT compatible computer with multi-processor and multi-operating system facilities.

Work with PC/AT programs and games under DOS as well as with your Amiga under AmigaDOS. ATonce runs as a task within AmigaDOS and is totally transparent when not in use

All components guarantee 286 AT emulation with a high degree of compatibilty and provide your Amiga with full system reliability.

ATonce is compatible with Kickstart 2.0. Windows 3 runs unrestrictedly in the Protected Mode. It accesses the entire environment of your Amiga: Commodore compatible hard disks, internal/ external disk drives and RAM, the serial/ parallel interface, sound, RTC and CMOS RAM. Video emulations such as EGA and VGA in a monochrome graphics mode, CGA with 16 colors, Hercules, Olivetti and ToshibaT3100 are available. ATonce fits directly into the socket of the 68000 CPU¹, so that a RAM expansion, if present, need not be removed. The expansion port at the side and the trap-door expansion port at the bottom remain free.

ATonce-classic is the emulator for the Amiga 500/ A 500-Plus. Its 286 CPU, rated with 7.2 MHz, offers a Norton SI ≤ 6.3. Start with £ 139 ATonce-classic for: RRP INC VAT ATonce-Plus is the professional 286 AT emulator with 512 KB RAM and a socket for an optional 80C287-12 arithmetic co-processor. The 286 CPU, with a 16 MHz clock frequency, offers a Norton SI ≤ 16.2. Full 640 KB DOS memory are available. ATonce-Plus can be fitted inside the Amiga 500, A 500-Plus and A 2000.

The price for this solution: RRP INC VAT For more information, contact your local Amiga dealer or call Compuserve at 100015,330.

¹ The guaranty might be voided. All company or product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders. ATonce is the registered German trademark of vortex Computersysteme GmbH. Distributed in the UK by: SDL, 10 Ruxley Corner Industrial Estate, Edgington Way, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 5SS, Tel. 081-309 5000, Fax. 081-300 5440



Does the thought of programming reduce you to a guivering wreck? If so, then this is the language for you to start with.

Jason Holborn gets back to basics.

Programming Language ■ £34.95 ■ Europress Software

WHEN EUROPRESS SOFTWARE launch ed AMOS over two years ago, it seemed to be the answer to everyone's dreams. At last there was a programming language available that would allow virtually anyone to produce the kind of effects that were previously only possible through assembly language. Programs employing ultra-fast sprites, smooth full-screen scrolling and interrupt-driven music could now be written in a matter of minutes.

With all the hype that surrounded the launch of AMOS, hordes of Amiga owners queued to get their hands on what was being called the most revolutionary Amiga product to date. But, as the initial excitement started to die down, many soon came to realise that despite AMOS' undoubted power, it wasn't quite the dream product that many had expected it to be. From a programming point of view, AMOS was (and still is), the most powerful basic programming language available, but it still shared one trait that manages to dog all programming languages - it won't write programs for you. Producing simple demos was easy enough, but it still took more than a little programming talent to produce anything more than this.

Acting upon this obvious problem, Europress have produced Easy AMOS, a simplified version of the AMOS interpreter that has been specifically designed for the absolute beginner. Europress aren't claiming that Easy AMOS will write your programs for you, but it's so simple to understand that even someone with the intellectual capacity of a Nintendo

EASY AMOS

is available from **Europress Software** 0625 859333

Block Buster may not offer anything in the way of originality, but it serves as a very good demonstration of just precisely what can be achieved with Easy AMOS.



gamesplayer should be able to master it in no time at all. A brave claim perhaps, but it seems this is exactly what Europress have managed to achieve.

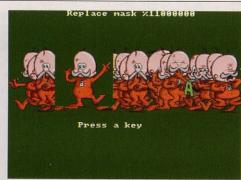
The very heart of Easy AMOS is the interpreter, which is fairly derivative of the original AMOS interpreter, but it has been spruced up for those who have very low boredom thresholds. Very much like the real thing, the interpreter screen is split into two parts. At the top of the screen are a set of 10 gadgets which can be accessed either by clicking on them with the mouse, or by pressing the appropriate function keys. If you press either the Control, Left Shift or Left Alt keys, these gadgets

change giving you access to even more of the commonly-used functions.

Below this strip of gadgets is the source code editor screen which is basically a word processor that has been designed specifically for entering in Easy AMOS programs. Just like a word processor, the Easy AMOS editor lets you enter lines of code, insert new lines, mark out sections of code and then cut, copy and paste them anywhere you want within the body of your source code. Unlike AMOS though, Easy AMOS only allows you to work on one program at any one time. I cannot, however see this worrying beginners particularly. Experienced programmers would probably find this rather restricting, but then



Easy AMOS has a directory utility which allows you to access files without using the CLI.



Easy AMOS includes a vast range of demonstration programs that are tied-in closely with the manual.



To ensure that you've grasped each chapter of the manual, the package comes complete with a quiz program.





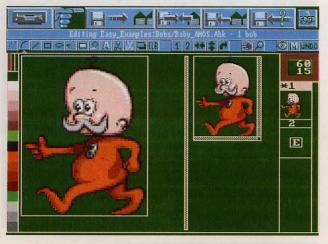
it's important to remember that *Easy AMOS* is aimed at beginners anyway.

One feature of Easy AMOS, which is certainly a vast improvement over AMOS, is its file requester. It has been totally rewritten while having beginners in mind. Not only is it now more colourful, but it also includes a few extra functions which are quite unique to Easy AMOS. Existing AMOS users shouldn't fret though – Europress have assured us that many of the improvements to be found within Easy AMOS will eventually make their way across into AMOS.

Easy AMOS arrives on two disks – one of them contains the Easy AMOS interpreter and associated files while the other contains three demo games and a wide selection of example programs which are tied-in closely with the manual. The demo games that are included with Easy AMOS are surprisingly good and are actually quite playable when compared to the rather naff offerings given away with AMOS. What's more, all three are heavily commented, making it easy to work out how each one works.

The first game is a *Breakout* clone which does nothing to encourage originality, but acts as an ideal starting point for anyone wanting to learn games programming. The two other demo games are *Tricycle Ball* and *Tricycle Run*; which is a *Kick-Off* derivative and a traditional *Track* & *Field*-like joystick waggler

EASY AMOS MADE EASY



Getting huge Bobs moving around the screen is simplicity itself with Easy AMOS. Once the interpreter is loaded, select Bob Editor from the icon strip and the Easy AMOS Bob Editor will appear. Draw your bob and then save it off to disk.



Returning to the interpreter, just a few lines of code are all that is needed to load, display and then move your Bob around the screen. If only assembly language was only this easy!



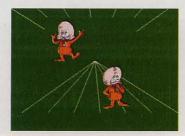
If you're not quite sure what each line of your program actually does, then the Easy AMOS tutor will let you step through your program line by line, with the output from each line being displayed in the reduced

view in the top left-hand corner of the tutor screen.



Once that section of code is working fine, how about adding some sampled sound effects? With the Easy AMOS Sample Bank Maker, whole collections of sampled sounds can be grouped together in one easy-

to-load 'bank'. Once again, all that is needed to get the sounds to play within your programs are just a couple of lines of code!



Already we have the makings of a fine Easy AMOS demo. Now you can start to add a few more effects including Sound Tracker music, a scrolling message and perhaps even a few more Bobs...

respectively. None of the games are particularly astounding, but Europress have put plenty of effort into making the source code for these three games as readable as possible with nearly every line commented in some way. These in themselves should prove to be great learning material for all of you would-be games programmers.

Unlike the original AMOS, Easy AMOS won't run from the disks that are supplied with the package. In an attempt to save beginners from all the heart-ache of accidentally formatting the wrong disks when making a backup copy, Easy AMOS must first of all be installed onto either a separate set of floppy disks or onto a hard drive. Apart from the occasional disk swap, installation is more or less completely handled by the Easy AMOS installation program which assumes virtually no prior knowledge from the user.

One of the most important aspects of Easy AMOS is its manual; a thick 424-page affair written by the veteran computer writer Mel Croucher. The Easy AMOS manual consists almost entirely of tutorials that guide the user through the Easy AMOS command set. This, combined with the comprehensive selection of on-disk example programs makes the Easy AMOS manual more of a programming course than a reference guide. Most programming language manuals are rather unreadable to say the least, but Mel Croucher has done an absolutely wonderful job, which has resulted in a manual that is not only very easy to read, but also manages to hold the reader's attention chapter after chapter.

The Easy AMOS command set is virtually the same as that to be found within its big brother, but several features have been removed to keep things as simple as possible. All the usual program control structures that you'd expect to find in a modern programming language are there in abundance including IF...THEN, DO...LOOP, Procedures etc. Indeed, about the only BASIC structure that isn't there is the very useful CASE structure, although Europress assure me that this may well be included in a future release.

What really makes a language like AMOS special, though, isn't its comprehensive coverage of generic BASIC commands, but the level of control that it gives even novice programmers over the Amiga hardware. Thankfully Easy AMOS is equally well endowed as its big brother in many key areas. Some aspects of AMOS' extensive command set have been removed though, including its powerful interrupt-driven animation language AMAL. AMAL was undoubtedly very powerful, but writing AMAL programs was one task that was assured to reduce even experienced programmers to tears, so it's hardly surprising that it has been removed from Easy AMOS.

What *Easy AMOS* does do though, it does very well indeed. There are all the usual *AMOS* commands for handling Bobs (*Easy AMOS* can't handle sprites), interrupt driven music (including direct support for *SoundTracker* modules – something that has only recently been added to *AMOS!*), copper

Continued overleaf



generated rainbow effects and smooth fullscreen scrolling. What's more, Europress have been able to learn from their mistakes, so many of the commands that are common to both languages have been improved within Easy AMOS.

One unique and very powerful feature of Easy AMOS that is sure to turn AMOS users absolutely green with envy is Easy AMOS' new Tutor, an interesting tool that allows you to examine the workings of Easy AMOS programs without having to halt program execution. Just like a symbolic debugger, the Easy AMOS tutor allows you to single-step through code monitoring each instruction and its effect on the Amiga.

The top left-hand quarter of the tutor screen is used to display a reduced representation of the graphic output of your program. As you single step through your code, this view is updated accordingly showing both animation and even scrolling. Screen update is obviously a little slower and animations tend to flicker rather a lot when running programs under the tutor, but the advantages of the tutor far outweigh this rather minor problem.

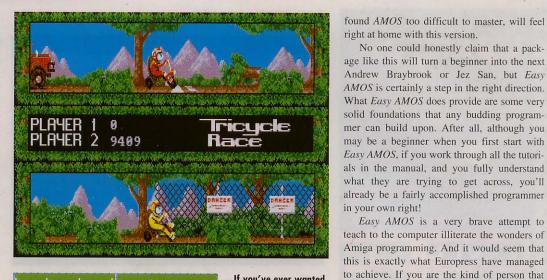
In the right hand corner of the tutor screen are a set of gadgets which give you control over program flow. The tutor allows you to run through your code in three modes - single step, slow or full pelt. Both single step and slow use the reduced view to show output, but full pelt simply transfers control back to the Easy AMOS interpreter closing the tutor screen in the process.

The tutor is really nothing more than a stand back and watch sort of affair, but it's a very good idea nonetheless. Trying to suss out somebody else's code is bad enough even when that code just happens to be heavily commented, but the tutor makes this surprisingly fun in a noisy sort of way. It's absolutely wonderful to be able to scan through code and see immediately what it actually does.

To all intents and purposes, Easy AMOS is really not that different from its big brother AMOS, but what makes it such an attractive proposition for non-techie types is its blindingly obvious ease of use. The key to this is not the Easy AMOS interpreter itself, but the clever way that Europress have managed to tie together a very well-written manual and example programs with the interpreter. On its own, programming in Easy AMOS would still not be that easy, but the almost exclusively tutorial-based manual is so well written that even a complete numbskull should find it easy enough to follow.

Even if there is one particular aspect of Easy AMOS that still confuses you, then you can easily skip to another tutorial and return to the section that confuses you at a later date. And, thanks to some heavily commented source code examples bundled with the package, you can play around with these examples until you feel confident enough to move onto something new.

I'm still not convinced that everyone will benefit from Easy AMOS' approach, but I'm quite sure that many users that would have





If you've ever wanted to write your own joystick waggler, then Tricycle Race will show you how it's done.

Modelled around Anco's Kick Off, Tricycle Ball boasts three-way scrolling.

Easy AMOS

has tried to learn to program before, but have

always managed to fail quite miserably, then

Easy AMOS could well be the answer to all

found AMOS too difficult to master, will feel

age like this will turn a beginner into the next

Andrew Braybrook or Jez San, but Easy

What Easy AMOS does provide are some very

Easy AMOS is a very brave attempt to

No one could honestly claim that a pack-

right at home with this version.

Every single aspect of Easy AMOS is highly polished and very smooth in operation.

DOCUMENTATION

I've never before awarded a five for a manual, but Easy AMOS is worthy of this accolade!

ACCESSIBILITY

your dreams. Dream on.

After about half-an-hour with Easy AMOS, you'll know enough to produce your own mini-demo!

FEATURES

Not quite as comprehensive as AMOS, but it is still a very well endowed language.

VALUE

£35 doesn't buy much these days, so at that price it's a real bargain!



UPGRADE INFO

Once you've worked your way through Easy AMOS, Europress are offering a very generous upgrade path that will allow would-be programmers to move up to AMOS for just £19.95. Just send back your original Easy AMOS program disk and a cheque and you'll have AMOS for £30 cheaper than its recommended price!

Similarly, all you frustrated AMOS users that would like to try their hand at Easy AMOS can get their hands on the package for just £14.95. Once again, send back your AMOS program disk with a cheque and Europress will be more than happy to dispatch a copy of Easy AMOS to you.

UTILITIES UNLIMITED

Easy AMOS comes complete with a wide selection of utilities that take the drudgery out of programming. Here's a run down of what's on offer.

BOB EDITOR - Easy AMOS doesn't support sprites, so its Bob Editor has been written solely for the task of producing Bobs. It supports all the usual screen resolutions including low and high resolution with a maximum of 64 colours when running in EHB (Extra HalfBrite) mode.

Absolutely huge Bobs, that are the size of a low resolution screen, can be created from scratch using the editor's built in drawing tools or you can load in an IFF image and then 'cut' out any section of the image for use as a Bob. Once you've got a few bobs defined, you can then bring them to life using the editor's superb animation facility.

What makes the Easy AMOS Bob Editor so special though is not the facilities that it offers, but its blindingly obvious ease of use. It's a very polished affair that absolutely oozes professionalism, something that was undoubtedly lacking from AMOS' Bob Editor. Some existing AMOS users will probably want to buy Easy AMOS for this program alone!

SAMPLE BANK MAKER - Pulling together a bank of sampled sounds was no easy task in AMOS, but Easy AMOS users have been spoilt rotten with this very handy utility. Just like the AMOS Sample Bank maker, you can load samples into memory and then organize them into order within a bank. This bank can then be saved out to disk for use with Easy AMOS, allowing a large number of samples to be loaded in one operation.

One very nice feature of the Easy AMOS Sample Bank Maker is the level of control it gives over samples. Built into the program is a sort of mini-AudioMaster sample editor which can be used to fine tune any sample. Once again, AMOS users would love this little baby!

DISK EDITOR - Because Easy AMOS is aimed at the kind of complete beginner that wouldn't know a disk from a beer mat, Easy AMOS even comes complete with a SID-like directory utility that allows you to carry out such complex DOS-related operations as formatting disks, copying, renaming and deleting files etc. It's not quite in the same league as Directory Opus, but it's a nice addition nonetheless.

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have a SPHINX unit ready. The enemy knows how good they are at stopping aircraft, so they are usually the primary target for the attack. A method to counter this is to place the SPHINX in a corner of a depot or headquarters and place BLITZ units in the surrounding hexes. The enemy will then never be in hex to hex contact with the SPHINX. A similar method can be used to protect the ANGEL heavy artillery from tank attack. The only difference is that you should replace the BLITZ units with SCORPION or GLADIATOR units.

It does not explain in the rule book to any great extent about using MERLIN units to make depots. This is done in the action/attack phase. Do the same as you would to attack if the MERLIN could and, if the geography of the land is suitable, a target hex will appear from the MERLIN. This will be the entrance to the depot when completed. It takes two turns to build the depot, although two MERLIN units can make a depot in one turn. If using one MERLIN you must remember to order it in the next action/attack phase to finish the depot as it does not automatically do so.

The experience system is of no great importance, especially in long, drawn out games, because an experienced unit will always destroy an identical "rookie" unit. The system is based as follows:

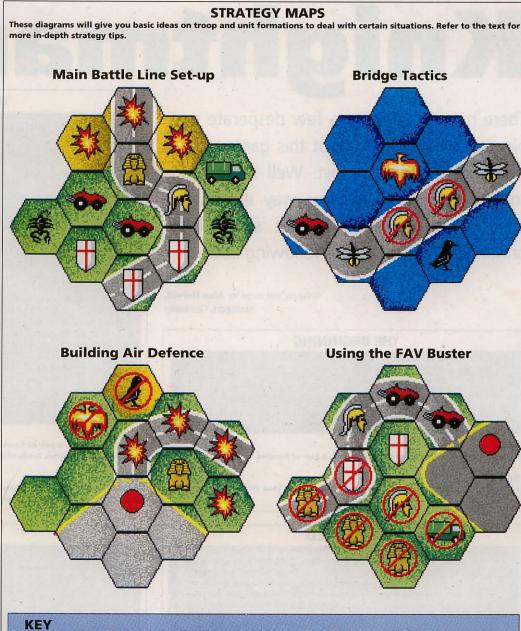
If in attack or defence a unit destroys one or more of the enemy in the opposing unit, then they will gain one experience point.

If a unit destroys the last enemy in a particular unit then they will receive an extra bonus of another point, making up a total of two points.

When fighting against units containing only one enemy (even when at full strength such as a BARRACUDA, PEGASUS, FORTRESS or AMAZON), an experience point is gained every time a shot hits it, even if that shot did not destroy it. Two points are gained for the unit that finally destroys it.

The best land attack formation is to have CRUSADER and GLADIATOR units in the middle of the front line. On the flanks it is useful to have SCORPION units placed, as their high speed makes them useful for surrounding the enemy. Behind the front line, have as many BUSTER units as possible so that they are two hexes from the enemy and the rocket attacks can be made in safety. Behind the BUSTER units (or along side them) have SPHINX, ANGEL and BLITZ units to protect the front line against air attack (the ANGEL units can also bombard the enemy from a distance). At the rear have DEMON units on-board PROVIDER units so that they can rush out and storm a building or retreat in the event of a collapsed line. PROVIDER units carrying DEMON troops should attack or allow to be attacked, since a troop PROVIDER loses all of its on-board troops when destroyed.

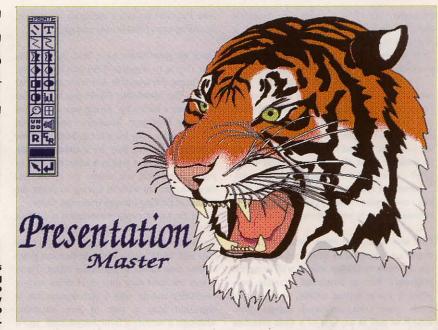
If you have a PEGASUS unit, try to launch the aircraft on-board as soon as a battle is likely, since all aircraft that are still on a destroyed carrier will be lost.







If you want your Amiga to do more than simply blast the latest batch of alien invaders, this program will enable you to provide graphic presentations of your latest college project, or help prepare a small business' annual report. Dave Collins is your presenter.



WITH ITS LARGE colour palette and highscreen resolutions, the Amiga is a natural for presentation work. Whether you're producing a slideshow demonstrating African knitting techniques for the next Woman's Guild meeting or a complete interactive training system for would-be nuclear physicist, the Amiga is the ideal vehicle for turning a few good ideas into a working presentation.

Interactive slideshow programs are certainly nothing new, but Oxxi Aegis' new Presentation Master takes the genre several steps forward. Its uses are diverse. At its simplest level, it can be used to generate simple slideshows comprising of 'slides' (IFF pictures) which can be flicked through automatically by the computer. In the hands of an experienced user though, it can be used to generate highly-complex interactive presentations which steal more than a few tricks from the multimedia ideal. If you've got access to a polaroid palette system, then with Presentation Master it's possible to generate complete slides which can be displayed without a single Amiga in sight.

Presentation Master has been floating around in beta test form for a number of months, but only now have Oxxi finally come up with the goods. I remember seeing a pre-production copy of Presentation Master a few months back and even then I was shocked by the number of disks that the package filled (an unbelievable eight!), but Oxxi have pushed up the disk count even further and Presentation Master now arrives on 13 disks! You'd think that this would be more than enough for any package, but because it's such a huge program many of its associated files have been archived onto the disks.

Despite the fact that the whole package arrives on a massive 13 disks, you'll be pleased to know that you don't need 13 Mbs to be able to run it. Most of the disks contain nothing more than clip art and extra fonts, so they're not essential to Presentation Master's operation. This aside though, its system requirements are still pretty hefty. Even at its simplest level, you will need a machine equipped with at least 2Mb of RAM and a hard drive, and even this isn't really enough to use this package to its optimum (3-4 Mbs is a more realistic setup!).

Presentation Master's structured drawing module allows you to design high-quality images or port in clip art in EPSF format.

resentati Maste Presentation Creation System

PRESENTATION MASTER is available from **Precision Software** 0753 557888

The SlideSorter screen

is used to organize the

slides that you have

created into a hierar-

chical presentation.

The most basic element within a Presentation Master presentation is the slide. These come in three basic flavours; one for displaying pictures or animations, another for putting blanks into your presentation, but the real workhorse of the entire system is the layered slide. Layered Slides can be used to present your information in a variety of different formats, all of which can be generated using Presentation Master's powerful slide construction tools.

Whole families of layered slides can be defined and used as a uniformed foundation for new slides by creating what is called a 'slide template'. A slide template contains all the basic information about each slide type such as its background image and the position of such things as the slide title etc. Slide templates are particularly useful if you need to use images or text over and over again (a company logo, for example).

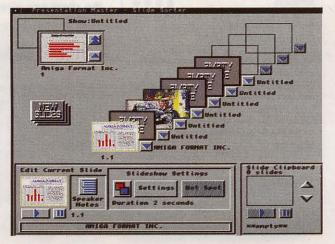
£140.99 Oxxi Aegis

Creating a new slide is a little like using a desktop publishing package. Before you start adding things like text and graphs to your slide, you must first create a content layer (a box basically) that will be used to hold some text or an image just like you would in a program like ProPage. Once again templates can save you loads of time here because boxes for more common elements such as the slide title can be defined as part of the template, allowing you to get started as soon as the template has been loaded

Content layers can hold a number of different types of information ranging from basic text to IFF images and even graphs (more on these later though!). If you're entering a line of text, all you have to do is to define the font (any standard Amiga bitmapped font can be used), its point size, style and colour and then type away. Once you've typed in your text, in true DTP style you can pick up the box that contains the text and move it around, resize it and so on. Presentation Master will automatically reformat any text within the box if the width of the box shrinks below its original size

Graphs can also be created quite easily within Presentation Master. Once you've created a box to contain the graph, a single click on the graph gadget brings up a screen that bears more than a striking resemblance to a conventional spreadsheet. Don't expect this to handle the kind of number crunching applications that

Continued overleaf



programs like ProCalc eat for breakfast though - Presentation Master's spreadsheet is restricted to entering values only, so you may want to use a real spreadsheet first if you're working with complex lists of numbers.

Once all your spreadsheet data has been entered, all that remains is to mark out the range to be graphed and Presentation Master will do the rest. As you'd expect, a variety of different chart types are supported including the usual bar, pie and line charts plus a few not so familiar types like the very useful Gannt chart (used for project management). Presentation Master gives you extensive control over your charts, allowing you to customise them to your own requirements.

One nice aspect the chart facility is that its charts are generated as structured objects and can therefore be fiddled around with using the program's built-in structured drawing program. If you're feeling artistic, you can even create your own structured images from scratch or pull in any one of a wide selection of demo images provided with the package. Presentation Master can read in structured clip art in standard EPSF format, allowing you to easily port your ProDraw creations into the program with a minimal amount of hassle.

Using a structured drawing program will come as bit of a culture shock if you've been weaned on pixel-based paint programs like Deluxe Paint, but Presentation Master's struc-



Presentation Master's PolyFonts can be scaled and distorted with no loss in quality.

tured drawing module is far easier to use than some programs I could mention. Most of its tools are accessed from a floating menu of gadgets that can be picked up and moved around the screen to your heart's content. All the usual structured drawing tools are there in abundance including the usual Bezier curves, filled and outlined ellipses, circles, ellipses and so on. What's more, the speed at which all of these operations are performed is very impressive indeed and could certainly teach ProDraw a thing or two!

Presentation Master has another ace tucked up its sleeve in the shape of its PolyFonts facility. Bitmapped fonts are all very nice, but resize them and they become chunky. Just like the Compugraphic fonts supported by ProPage, Presentation Master's PolyFonts can be resized, rotated, distorted and flipped with no loss in quality whatsoever. A wide selection of PolyFonts are included, but for those of you who want more, Presentation Master supports outline fonts in both PageStream and Compugraphic format, so adding extra fonts is easy enough.

Once all your slides have been defined, the next step is to organize them into a presentation using Presentation Master's SlideSorter screen. The SlideSorter allows you to organize slides into a hierarchy, giving you the chance to create intelligent interactive presentations that will allow your intended audience to view only the slides that they are interested in. By defining a hot spot within a slide, the user of your presentation can access the slides that they want to see without having to suffer the tedium of flicking through irrelevant slides.

At the top of every presentation is a 'Root Slide' which could be something like your presentation's title screen. Below this you can then add 'child' slides which in turn can point to their own subset of additional slides. These in turn can have their own child slides, so you eventually end up with a presentation that is organized into a sort of tree structure. Although it sounds a little complicated, you'd be surprised just how easy it is to create some very complex presentations.

It's all too easy to think that Presentation Master is nothing more than a tool for creating slides for output to a Polaroid Palette, but the program goes so much further than this quite limited application. If you are using it for slide preparation, then it'll do the job perfectly, but this is only the tip of the iceberg. If you've ever needed to create interactive presentations, point of sales and even complete computerbased teaching systems, Presentation Master provides the tools to achieve this in no time.

The system requirements for the program are a little over the top and this could well be Presentation Master's only stumbling block. It's memory requirements aren't that outrageous (let's face it, RAM expansions are very cheap these days), but to restrict the program to hard disk users only is sure to loose Oxxi more than a few customers. If your system is man enough for the job though, you're unlikely to find a presentation system that even comes close to the power and flexibility To that Presentation Master provides.

Presentation Master

SPEED

Considering the amount of data that it handles,

you'll find it zips along.

DOCUMENTATION Its huge manual hardly makes for light reading, but it describes the program's operation well .

ACCESSIBILITY

... Getting into Presentation Master is a pain at first, but you'll soon find it a logical enough.

FEATURES

Packed to the gills with powerful features, it really kicks the competition for six.

VALUE

Not bad value, at £140.99, for an experienced user who needs a flash presentation system.



SLIPPERY SLIDES



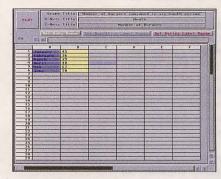
To create a new slide, click on the 'New Slide' gadget from the SlideSorter and Presentation Master will give you a choice of three slide types. Most of the time you'll be working with layered slides,

so click on the appropriate gadget and you're away.



If a template family has already been loaded, then vou'll be presented with a blank slide containing empty content layers just waiting to be filled. The first thing to do is to add a title

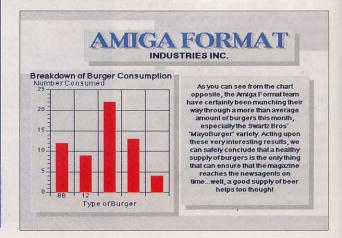
(or heading) to your slide followed by a subtitle. Once this is done, you can then start to work on the more interesting aspects of your slide.



Clicking on a new content layer, it's time to create a chart. This is achieved by clicking on the chart icon from the toolbox strip. You'll then be presented with a spreadsheet-like

screen which is used to enter the data which is to be graphed. Once all the data has been entered, select a range and Presentation Master will do the rest.

Then your graph is displayed in all its structured glory. If you're not entirely happy with it, you can select a different type of graph or choose to spruce up the chart you already have.



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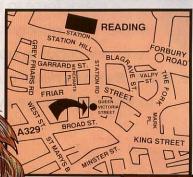
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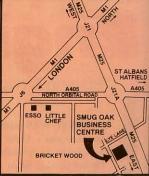
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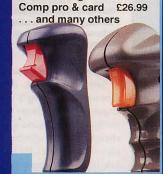
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With the Amiga rapidly becoming a major force in the world of music, high quality sampling systems are popping up all over the

place. Maff Evans checks out an update to the top package ever released.

Audio neer

Sampling Package ■ £204.30 ■ Ramscan

WHEN IT WAS released almost two years ago, Ramscan's Audio Engineer package was regarded as the best sampling system available for the Amiga. Since then, various systems have been released which add new features and editing facilities to the budding home sampler's toolkit, some of which even go beyond the scope of the original Audio Engineer. However, Ramscan have not been sitting around for the past 20 months, and they are set to re-establish themselves as the market leaders in sampling with Audio Engineer Plus.

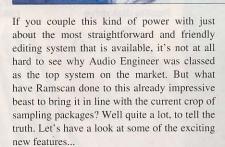
AUDIO ENGINEER PLUS is available from **HB Marketing:** 0753 686000

The original package was a combination of the superb Audio Imager sampling hardware and Peter Norman's Audiomaster III (albeit under a different name). The package wasn't cheap (just under £200) but the power and quality offered by the system was unrivalled. Not only could you record crystal-clear samples with little fuss, but the program contained some of the best editing features around.

One of the most impressive features was the Loop Sequencing system, which allowed you to recreate an entire track just from a few short samples. This is done by positioning a number of loop pointers at various points on the sampled waveform and playing them in sequence, giving the impression that you have a much bigger sample in memory.

The main Audio Engineer II screen. This shows the panel with its new, modified scroll bar, position display panel, zoom buttons and waveform display scale.





FOUR TIMES OVERSAMPLING

Preferences	✓ OverSampling
Audio Filter Co-ord Display	✓ OK Prompts Loop Limit
Snapshot Device	√ Finished Tone
Soreen Colors	✓ Cut To Buffer
Sampler Config)I WEWE
Type Of Waveform	W

Switching on the Oversampling mode in the Preferences menu can cause sounds sampled at low rates to become a lot cleaner on playback.

When recording and listening to samples taken at low sample rates, a lot of excess noise (known as 'aliasing') can creep in. Audio Engineer Plus' software features an impressive facility called Oversampling, which actually smooths out the glitches in samples as they play. This removes the harsh whine that many low-frequency samples can be hampered with.

DIGITAL FILTER

PRINTER

SAMPLER

110

MIC I/P



Using the built-in digital filter, you can enhance or reduce defined frequency ranges in a sample.

Whereas other samplers allow you to cut the top end 'hiss' from samples, Audio Engineer Plus allows you to cut or boost any range of frequencies, as well as giving you access to a full bandpass filter.

WAVEFORM MIXING



Using the MIX function, you can merge sounds in the Copy Buffer with sounds in the edit window, adding flange effects if required.



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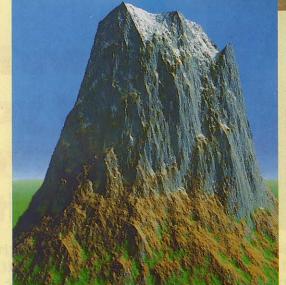
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VISTAPRO 2 control panel



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VISTAPRO 2 now supports user definable backgrounds and foregrounds. For instance a foreground might be a shot from inside a light plane cockpit looking out of the window. A background might be a particularly nice cloud photo or astronomically-correct night sky rendered with Distant Suns 4.0

NOTE: VISTAPRO 2 needs 3mB

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FOOTBALL TACTICIA

Until now, football simulations came in two categories: arcade and management. Few, if any, ever bothered with the all-important STRATEGY which a successful manager is to master, both before a match when deciding on squad selection, and during the match when high-drama, real-time decisions must be made on tactics, substitutions, set pieces and player deployment. But now, for the first time on any major computer, there is a superlative management game that encompasses all forms of soccer strategy: it is called FOOTBALL TACTICIAN.

Team selection, needless to say, remains a critical element in any successful campaign; and here you will be aided with a wealth of player data, never seen in any soccer program before. Gone are the days when a player was given a single skill level. Each player is now analysed in up to 20 different aspects, enabling you to select the side best suited for the match in hand. And then to the BIG innovation of

FOOTBALL TACTICIAN: full on-line, real-time involvement during the match! For the first time ever, you will, as a manager, be able to alter your strategy : choose a defensive or offensive system, mark certain opponents, drop back some of your players if the pressure is tough, decide exactly when substitutions should be made, play the off-side trap, go for quick counters, etc... With full on-screen commentary and minute-by-minute feed-back, you're as involved in the match as any of your players! When you further consider that this game is written in 100% machine code (unlike scores of other slow-motion offerings which are written in basic), that up to twenty two users can play this game at the same time, that accurate records are kept on all 440. players in the first division, right down to their exact market valuation, that a built-in editor allows you to change any player's or manager's name, you will realise that this is no ordinary soccer manager. THIS is the REAL THING. You're in charge. You manage your side before and during the match. Nothing is left to chance. Can you rise to the challenge? Try FOOTBALL TACTICIAN and prepare yourself for the ultimate football experience.

Amongst the many features: intelligent computer behaviour, lively transfer market, ability to replay ANY match of the week with full commentary, three levels of commentary from highlights only to every single ball challenge with all players named, ability to retrieve any fixture from the last 21 seasons, top scorers chart, friendlies, speed control, twenty player squads including the VERY LATEST transfers right up to this very week, full European Cups program with every single European player accurately named, selectable positions, automatic and intelligent substitutions by computer opponents based on player fitness, fatigue and tactics used; computer opponents will automatically change tactics to respond to situation on the field, ability to utilize



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Sequencer One

Sequencer One, the excellent beginners' music program we gave away with Issue 30. If you missed out, get it now from our Back Issues department on Page 184!

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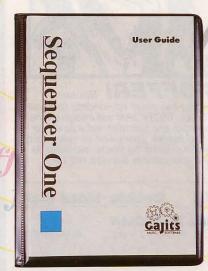
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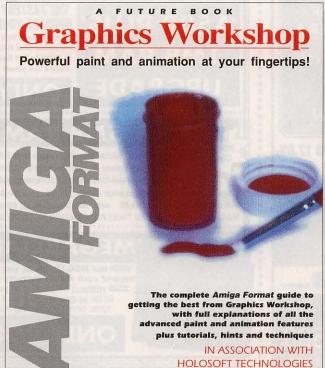
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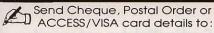


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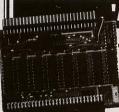




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WILLIE'S WATERWORKS

NBS L511



Putting the pieces of the pipe together to let the water flow through, that's the idea of Willie's Waterworks

Most PD games don't have much in the way of an intro or presentation, but this is the exception. Willie's Waterworks is a very playable clone of a game called Pipemania. The idea is to place various sections of pipe so that water can flow through them. Unfortunately the water goes at its own speed, so it starts slow and gets frantic very quickly.

The slickness and presentation are eye catching, and although not quite of commercial standard, Omega Demos Inc have done a great job in making a simple game look, and sound, excellent. One for the puzzlers.

AVINA BLUE

POLLYSOFT L20

Written by Chris Skellern, this is one of those extreme PD releases. Avina Blue is one of many huge satellites orbiting the Earth in the far future. They're all controlled and linked together by the Ego Mind, a sinister computer-based artificial intelligence that dominates and controls the vast majority of the human race.

The exception is you of course, and it's you who has to penetrate Avina's defences and destroy the main computer terminal. Fairly predictable story line, and very predictable game – it's a scrolling shoot-em-up, but the good news is it's very fast.

Update

The Public Domain has a plethora of free games and utilities, and right here, right now **Pat McDonald** picks out his faves.



One of the bluest games ever on the Amiga, Avina taxes your reactions to the limit. Lucky you get lots of lives!

You really don't get much time to react at all to the twisting corridors of *Avina Blue*. Few of the nasties move, and it's doubtful that they are programmed to attack you – quite frankly you are a blur compared to them. You may think you've seen some fast games – but this is faster. Sound effects are competent.

It's regrettable that Chris did his own graphics, because quite frankly they're terrible. All the same, Avina Blue is a fun sort of challenge that demands extreme reactions – let's hope he finds a decent artist for his next release.

NEW SUPERKILLERS

VIRUS FREE PD 2319

The most up to date set of virus killers around, thanks to the efforts of Safe Hex International, a widespread organization dedicated to the extermination of viruses on the Amiga (and well led by Erik Lovendahl Sorenson of Norway). This disk can cope with 223 different viruses.

One word of warning – the disk has a couple of viruses on it! However, this isn't a slip up on the part of Erik, but a good way of learning how to find and remove viruses with the supplied programs.

First on the list is Virus Checker V6.0, by John Veldthuis (an earlier release of this program was on Amiga Format 31's Coverdisk). Virus Checker is simple, can be setup to run continually while you are using Workbench, and knows the most viruses of any individual program on this disk.

BootX (by Peter Steur) 4.40 is also on there. This has had a major facelift, to make it look worthy of Workbench 2. BootX, as I have said many times, is a very useful program. You can use it to backup the bootblock portion of games. If a virus wipes the bootblock of a game, then this program can put it back again. Considering it can cost a fortune to replace games knackered by a virus, this utility is a must.

Continued on page 172

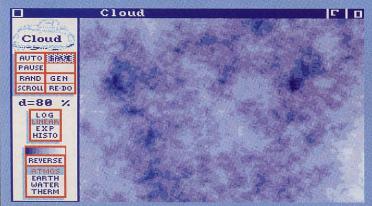
FRACTAL LANDSCAPES 17 BIT 1697

Those who enjoyed the *Vista* program, which was given away with last month's *Amiga Format*, come may find this collection quite good. It's a set of fairly old programs, but there isn't a duff one in there.

The Genesis demo is similar to Vista, except that it's slower and the save picture feature has been deleted. Scenery has been the PD equivalent of Vista for as long as I can remember, and although the pictures are not as good, it does go quite quickly. Landscape is similar, though due to it being written in

AMOS it's not the fastest in the land. LandBuild is tricky to use, but it can produce 3D landscape maps quite quickly. To round off, *Cloud 9* is a program for drawing fractal clouds, in a range of different colours. The quality of cloud is selectable by the user – again, tricky to use but nice effects. It cannot save any pictures on its own.

If you do get this disk, I would recommend that you also get a screen saver like *PicSaver* or *Fenster*, to let you get the graphics out of the programs.



OK, OK, as Maff Evans pointed out, *Deluxe Paint III* will do for this sort of effect. For those who want a true Fractocumulus, this is the shareware program to support.



Scenery Generator is classic shareware — no collection is really complete without it. Not as easy to use as *Vista*, but it produces good landscapes all the same.



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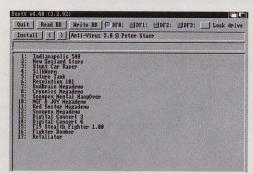
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BootX 4.4 has a number of prerecorded bootblocks, but to use it properly you should archive your whole collection.

There are plenty of other programs on the disk, like Sysinfo V2.58 (for finding out what's inside your Amiga without taking the lid off); FEA or FindEmAll, a small utility for examining and installing bootblocks on a disk; ZeroVirus III, the old stalwart of a virus checker that is still (a couple of years after it was released) the most user-friendly virus killer; and VT2.26, a German virus killer that has been partly anglicised by Marco Van den Hout. All of them backed up by lots of documentation and handy hints about viruses (including a couple of phone numbers to call for help when hunting viruses).

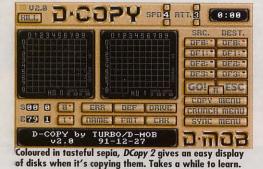
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ULTIMATE BOOTBLOCKS

17 BIT 1655

You want as many bootblocks as possible? Well that's all that is on these two disks – they're crammed to the gills with bootblocks and related programs. Fairly easy to get into, but there's a lot to learn. Enough said.

DCOPY 2 VIRUS FREE PD 2302



Another update, this time it's a Public Domain copying program. While a lot of software houses really frown on this sort of program, the fact of the matter is that you can't use this or similar programs to copy commercial software without specialised knowledge and lots of time.

So what's it good for? For one thing, it's fast at copying standard disks – much faster than Workbench. Also, it can copy non-standard disks (often used for PD demos) with only a slight drop in speed.

The one problem with it is that the documentation is hidden away – you have to dig with Workbench to find it. If you can't be bothered, then expect to spend a long time fiddling with the program to make it work. Pretty front end though, and very useful once you get the hang of it.

TEXTPLUS V3.0EN

IF you want a cheap word processor with lots of features, then *TextPlus* is for you. It comes with the PD spelling checker *AmigaSpell version 2.0* (written by Mike Berro) for correcting the typos in your documents. Do remember, though, that *AmigaSpell* has to be worked on to get it right for your individual tastes.

The real addition to this continually updated program is an AREXX port, with over 100 commands. So you can set up *TextPlus* to process hundreds of files, and get on with your life in the meantime.

Other new features include the ability to load crunched files (most word processors just cannot do this); and *TextPlus* will autosave. This means that your work is saved to disk every so often without you having to lift a finger from your keyboard. The program can also save text files with icons, to make them easier to find – and help is available from inside the program.

There's a lot of other features to, like footnotes, multiple documents and so on, but one of the most useful is the facility for sending command sequences to your printer. You know those odd codes in your printer manual, for selecting different fonts and colours? The program can pump them into your printer (not serial printers though) so that you can get the best out of today's printers.

All things considered, this is the best shareware word processor I have ever seen. Well done Martin Steppler. However, it may be a little over complex for some people, so it's lucky that there is an alternative...

TEXTENGINE V3

VIRUS FREE PD 2171

Nicholas Harvey didn't want to spend loads of money on a word processor, so he wrote his own. *TextEngine* a is a cut to the bones, really simple word processor – but it does the job as fast as possible.

New features of this update include Macros, a merge file facility (although you can only add things to the end of a document — you can't merge into the middle) and a cut-and-paste facility that can hold about two pages of text, to plonk them down wherever you want them.

The real addition, though, is that the programmer has put a set of gadgets to click on, down the left side of the screen. These are used for common commands, like loading and saving a file. A nice touch. *TextEngine* is very unsophisticated, but for knocking out the occasional letter it's still very hard to beat, because it is so simple.

Also included on the disk are *MiniTool* (for changing between PAL or NTSC screen modes – handy for flight sims because NTSC is faster) and *AZ Spell* for checking the spelling of documents.

LSD GRAPEVINE EIGHT

17 BIT 1660

There are plenty of disk magazines in the Amiga PD, but the best ones are done by PD coding groups (or crews, or teams, or whatever you want to call them). LSD have done an excellent job on this one.

Rather than being the usual "few programs plus a bit of waffle" in a naff front end, *Grapevine* has a very pretty and easy to use front end, packed with information about coding groups, who is doing what and with whom, and so on. It also gives dates and ticket addresses for forthcoming copy parties. There's some really irritating Jean Michel Jarre tunes on there too.

The real core of the magazine, though, are the classified adverts. These range from simple messages to



Ever wanted to get in touch with the people behind the demos? *Grapevine* can give you the contacts!

whole 32 colour screens, asking for new contacts for graphics, music, and machine code. If you want to get a "behind the scenes" look at the Public Domain, get this disk and start contacting.

Most PD groups are elitist to an extreme, and tend to label anyone who shows a severe lack of knowledge as a "lamer". Don't let them put you off – everyone was a lamer once!

The reason for this is elitism is that when the early Amiga pioneers (way back in the mid 1980s) were busy asking questions, there was no one to give the answers; so a lot of present-day experts don't see why they should give away information that it cost them a lot of pain and frustration to get. Socially backward, but like I say, understandable.

CONTACT LIST:

All the Public Domain programs and utilities reviewed here can be obtained from the following PD libraries.

17 BIT: PO Box 97, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 1XX. 0924 366982

NBS: 1 Chain Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5QA

POLLYSOFT: 1 Bryant Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2YD

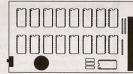
VIRUS FREE PD: 31 Faringdon Road, Swindon, Wilts, SN2 2LS

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Every month, we look at the best-selling utility and game PD disks from a particular library, so you can see what's popular...

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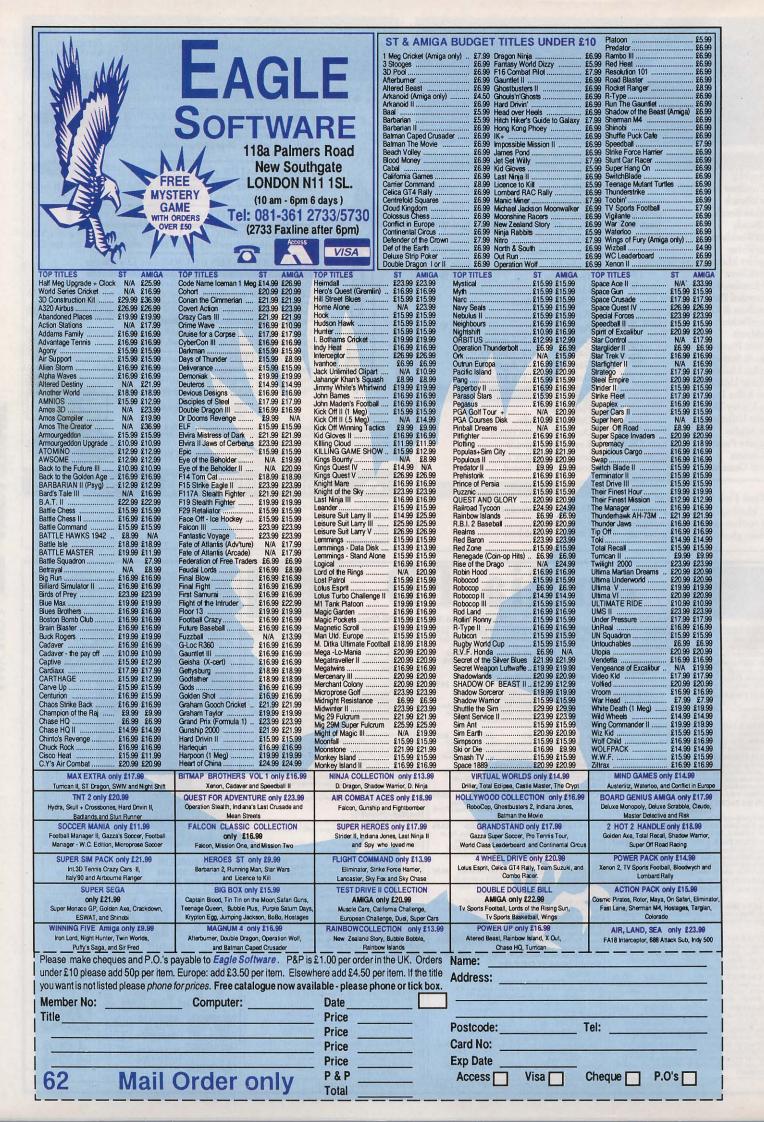


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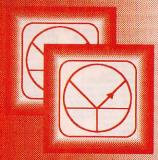
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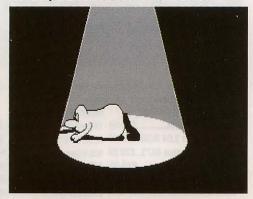
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CIRCUS ACT

17 BIT, DISK 1653 TWO DISKS



Oh dear. Mr Potato Head has come a cropper already, and the demo hasn't actually started properly yet!

Let's start off with an amusing little piece of animation. This is the third clip in the Mr Potato Head series from relative newcomer Chris Hill

In his latest adventure, Mr P Head tries yet another circus trick, this time as a human cannonball. Unfortunately, the trick doesn't really go as planned and the spuddy one is fired straight up in the air and out through the top of the tent. What does he find as he flies through the air? Well let's just say that Mr Hill has 'paid homage' to Mr Schwartz's Aerotoons series!

Chris' animations have improved over the series. The first was a short, simple loop, the second was a more ambitious piece with a full plot and Circus Act (the third) goes even further. The style of drawing has been cleaned up considerably, making the animation run more smoothly and the humour seem a little more manic and not so forced.

If Chris carries on in this tradition, he could soon find his name mentioned alongside the top-rated Amiga PD animators working today.



Right. A jet, a toy robot, a fish wearing headphones, a sunbathing cat, Prince, Japanese comics and a vegetable firing from a cannon. What have all these got in common? No, it's not the new series of Vic Reeves' Big Night Out. It's the latest rendition of Amiga Format's Demo Zone. Still confused? Well it's obvious, isn't it? You take your vegetable, fire it at the cat... NO! That's enough! Let's get **Maff Evans** on the case and sift through the latest Amiga demos.

JET ANIM

17 BIT, DISK 1677

After mentioning the possible use of fractal graphics in your own cartoons in last month's Amiga Format animation feature, along comes a clip featuring just this technique. The clip is based around a landscape created by Dave Taylor using Scenery Animator, which has been modified somewhat to add a little extra interest. An animated picture of a jet has been placed over the moving landscape to give the impression that you are following a high-speed fighter down a rocky canyon.

The clip generates an incredible feeling of speed, with the scenery rushing past the jet at a nippy rate and although the scene is just a short loop, it shows just the kind of thing that is possible with these new-fangled fractal animators.



These low flying aircraft! They'll cause an accident with the fractal mountain goats one of these days, I tell you!

Continued on page 183

MANGA SLIDESHOW

WACK PD TWO DISKS

As long-term readers of Amiga Format will know, we're all fans of Japanese animation around here (after all, a few of us even voted the cartoon Akira as the best film of 1991). It's not surprising then, that we find this demo interesting.

The two disk demo features a whole host of slides based on characters from the Japanese Manga comics, including the Gundam F-90 robots, Gunbusters, Street Möbius and violent future-war strip Patlabor. The intro to the demo is quite drawn out and is unfortunately a little tedious. The text messages are rather puerile and the team-member pics are pretty awful. However, when the slideshow starts properly, the images are absolutely spot-on. The characters capture the feel of their comic counterparts superbly, from the cutesy Super Deformed mini-robot fighters to the harsh metallic appearance of Patlabor. Even the backing tune captures the feel of Japanese cartoon action, with lots of manic chants to pep up the music.

If you're not familiar with the world of Japanese comics and animation, then this is a good way to get started. Who knows, the market for these items may open up in the near future, what with demos like this and the release of the new Manga Video label, get into the action - it's great!



Domo arigato, Maff-san! Some Japanese respect courtesy of one of the images that is to be found in the Manga Slideshow.



A dark, mysterious edge is added to the demo with this scene. I wouldn't like to meet him in a dark alley without some heavy fire-power on my side!



The ornate armour in this picture gives you some idea of the quality of artwork that is to be found in Japanese Manaa comics.

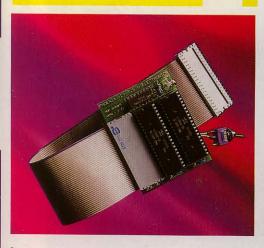
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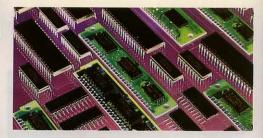
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	Growth	quality shoot 'em up
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		3 good games
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	Assassins Games 2	
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	Pom Pom	defend Pearl Harbour
	Return to Earth (1mh)	superb space adventure
	Seven Tiles	Speedball game
	Snakepit	Eat food and avoid your growing body
	Galactic Food Fight	kill those hamburgers
	Leaping Larry	
	Hmm, that's not on the syllabus	
	Monopoly	board game computerised
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D157	Space Bubbles	Richter classic excellent animation
D237	Simpsons Decay Demo	Bart at his best
D075	Girls of Sport	slides of sporty girls
D063	Fillet the Fish	cutesy cartoon, similar to Puggssad but cute
D215	Another Five Ways to Kill a Mole	sad but cute
D099	Jesus Loves Acid	Rave disk Hogan and more Excellent - see March reviews
D253	WWF Wrestlers	Hogan and more
D254	Ray of Hope	Excellent - see March reviews
M001	808 State	beaty remix excellent clarity remix
M082	The Power	excellent clarity remix
M074	Subway Music	original sound and graphics
M057	Powerpack 3 (1 Mb)	original sound and graphics tracks include Vanilla Ice
M062	Random Access	includes Art of Noise
M038	Hugo's Excentria	housey tunes to cartoon graphics
M030	Debbie Gibson (2 disks)	Electric Youth
M084	The Wall	Pink Floyd classic
M087		
M086	Great Balls of Fire	goodness gracious
M083	Technotronic Megamix	this beat is good!
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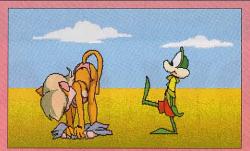
AT THE BEACH

PD SOFT, DISKS 2384 AND 2385 TWO DISKS - REQUIRES 3MB

Bet you'd thought we'd forgotten about it, didn't you? Well here it is - this month's entry into the demo circuit for Eric Schwartz. This time it's the turn of Flip the Frog to make another appearance along with his 'friend' Clarisse the Cat as they take a trip to the beach.

The demo starts off by setting the scene as Flip and Clarisse arrive at the seaside (with poor old Flip carrying all the gear). As Clarisse gets ready for a spot of sunbathing in her bikini, Flip gets a little overheated and rushes off for a swim. This leaves the way open for a burly lifeguard to muscle in and try and catch the attention of young Miss Cat.

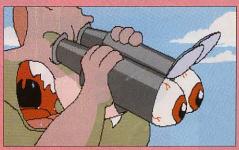
What follows is the usual cartoon mayhem as Flip tries to battle with the lifeguard, complete with wild Tex Avery-style actions. The story is more extensive than other examples of Eric's work, with an involved plot which unrolls as the cartoon continues. His animation style has also been carefully refined, bringing even more class to his already excellent productions. The characters have even more personality, the situations are more involved and the action is funnier. If you've got a large amount of memory, then you just can't afford to miss this gem. It's Mr Schwartz's best output yet.



What's a poor little frog supposed to do when con-fronted with a scene like this? Go for a dip, that's what!



That muscle-bound beach bum attitude is a bit passé these days, and Clarisse is none too impressed.



Flip isn't the only one with his eye on Clarisse's sunbronzed fur. Better keep an eye on this character.



In fact she was so unimpressed that she vents all her feline wrath on the burly bone-head!

ROCKIN' ROBOT 17 BIT, DISK 1675



This colourful chap looks as though he's having a good time. Now if he could only shake off this Ramsoft logo...

Dave Taylor makes a second appearance this month under the name Ramsoft, with a return to the wellestablished style of looped, ray-traced animations. This clip features a brightly-coloured toy robot rocking around on his dumpy base, with a Ramsoft logo circling his midsection as he moves. It's just a simple loop, but the image is nicely drawn (in a cute kind of way). The most impressive point to note is the way the reflected spotlight glints off various sections of the robot as he rolls about. An impressive demo in the good old tradition!

CONTACT:

PD SOFT: 1 Bryant Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2YD

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Wack PD: 48 Emerson Ave, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS5 7QH

ALPHABET STREET

17 BIT, DISK 1643



Who is that jaundiced-looking mutant? What? It's supposed to be Prince? Pull the other one!

This month's foray into the world of popular music that has been... er... converted to Amiga PD takes a sidestep from the usual crop of Rave tunes that have recently appeared. This time a step back a few years has been taken by David Leitch to bring us a 'remixed' version of Prince's Alphabet Street.

The disk contains two versions of the demo, one for half meg users and another for those with expanded machines. The only difference between them is the fact that the half meg version doesn't display any graphics. The music is all right, if a little tinny sounding, but it doesn't really capture the uptempo, dancy feel of the original. However, the first thing you notice is the picture of Prince that is displayed along with the music. There's only one way to put this really - the picture is absolutely abysmal! The only way you can tell that it's supposed to be Prince is that this is a Prince demo; it just doesn't look anything like him.

What a predicament this puts the demo in: it doesn't stand up just on musical merit, since the music lacks the feel of the original, but it doesn't impress on the visual side either, because the graphics are absolutely terrible. This means that the demo will more than likely be overlooked by even the Prince fans. How sad.

JAMES WHALE ANIM

17 BIT, DISK 1676

Although this one doesn't display any credits at any point, there is a strong possibility that this one is also by Dave Taylor. It's yet another looped, ray-traced animation, this time based on a TV programme The time he listens. James Whale Radio



subject that some of This fish is obviously wired for sound. He's only got one you may already know tape though, since he can't - the little fish from the remember hearing it every

Show. Even if you hate the programme, you might still be impressed by this little clip. The style of the graphics is a little different from Dave's other work. The fish has been left in its polygon form, with the surfaces appearing to be made up of shiny panels. Rather than making the animation look shoddy, the effect works quite well, making the fish appear solid as it moves. Looks like the lad Taylor has scored a hat-trick!

TOP TEN DEMOS OF THE MONTH

Every issue we take the trouble of finding out a PD library's best-selling music and graphics demos. This month it's the turn of...

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2	Stealthy II*	
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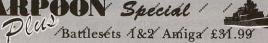
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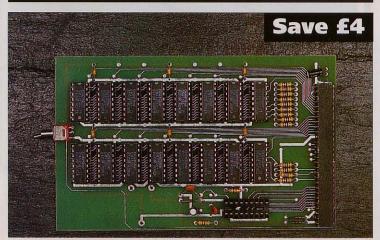


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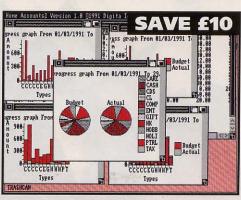
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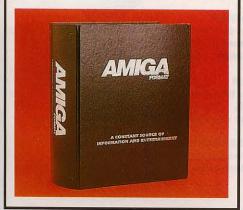
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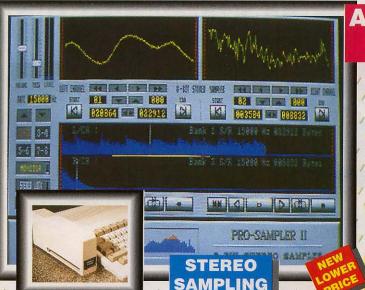
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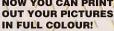
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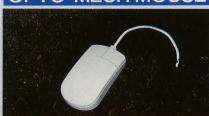
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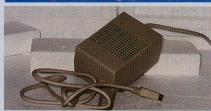
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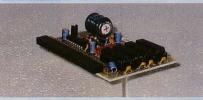


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WHAT YOU'VE MISSED IF YOU DIDN'T READ THE FIRST THREE EXCITING INSTALMENTS...

Part One was mainly theory. It's not vital to read, but if you can, do get hold of a copy. It fills in quite a lot of background about how computers work and what Workbench and the CLI are there for.

Part Two covered basic techniques for working your Workbench with the mouse. Then we moved on to formatting a blank disk for use, and how to give your disk a name.

Part Three got down to the nitty-gritty of creating, moving and renaming drawers on a disk, and then how to copy, rename and delete individual files. By now you should be able to do all the important things that Workbench is there for: so let's get advanced!

Just so that we don't get too confused, we're going to start this month by taking another look back at what we've done already. You can look on this as a kind of checklist: read it through and then check that you know how to do all the things on it. If you don't, go back to last month or the month before and give it some practice.

What you should discover is that you know how to operate everything on Workbench, and that you can do all the things that Workbench and the CLI are basically there for. Remember, Workbench and the CLI (or Shell) are two different kinds of 'interface' and that an interface is there to give you control over files that are stored on disks. You should be able to rename, delete, copy and move files.

At its most basic, that's all that the Workbench disk is there for. There are, however, a lot of other things you can do with it if you want. We'll be taking a look at all of these a bit later on, after first taking a tour of the Workbench menus just to make sure you know what they are all there for. Ready? Let's go!

Getting to grips with Workbench

As the essential series for newcomers to the Amiga reaches its fourth exciting episode, we've already learnt an awful lot. So let's recap, as **Damien Noonan** explores all the features of Workbench.

Your at a glance guide to basic Workbench and CLI/Shell operations

Here's a guide that should help you to do all those basic operations. It could be a valuable 'cut out and keep' in case you forget how it's done.

FORMATTING A DISK

WORKBENCH 1.3

Select the disk icon. Select 'Initialize' from 'Disk' menu

WORKBENCH 2

Select the disk icon. Select 'Format Disk...' from 'Icons' menu

CLI OR SHELL

Format drive df0: name Mydisk (replacing the word Mydisk with whatever name you want to use)

RENAMING A DISK

WORKBENCH 1.3



Select disk icon.
Select 'Rename' from
'Workbench' menu. Delete
the old name in the box that
appears on screen, type new
name, press Return.

WORKBENCH 2

Select disk icon. Select

'Rename' from 'Icons' menu. Delete the old name in the box that appears on screen, type new name, click on 'OK'.

CLI OR SHELL

You don't need to: you've given it your own name already.

COPYING A DISK

WORKBENCH 1.3

Drag icon of the disk you want to copy over the icon of the blank disk you want to copy it onto. Follow the onscreen prompts.

WORKBENCH 2

Drag icon of the disk you want to copy over the icon of the blank disk you want to copy it onto. Follow the onscreen prompts.

CLI OR SHELL

diskcopy from df0: to df0: (then follow the on-screen prompts.).

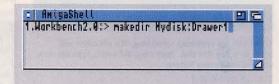
CREATING A DRAWER

WORKBENCH 1.3

You can't create a new one: you have to make a copy of the Empty drawer on your Workbench disk. See 'Duplicating a Drawer' and 'Copying a Drawer'.

WORKBENCH 2

Select the window you want the drawer in. Select 'New drawer' from the 'Window' menu. Delete the old name 'Unnamed1' in the box that appears on screen, type new name, click on 'OK'.



One of the most difficult things to do with the CLI is create a new drawer: and even that's as easy as falling off a log! Remember, you can pick whatever name you want...

CLI OR SHELL

makedir Mydisk: Mydrawer (again, remember that the Mydisk name should be replaced with the name of your disk and the Mydrawer can be whatever name you want the drawer to be).

DUPLICATING A DRAWER

WORKBENCH 1.3

Select drawer icon. Select 'Duplicate' from 'Workbench'

THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW HOW TO DO WITH WORKBENCH...

Along the way, you should have picked up a whole range of skills for actually using Workbench; here's a checklist so you can make sure you can do them all.

Double-clicking (to open windows, etc)

Clicking (to close windows, etc)

Selecting an icon (so an icon is highlighted)

Selecting a menu option

Bringing windows to front or moving them to the back

Dragging

Moving windows

Resizing windows

Opening and closing windows

Saving files from a program to a blank disk, not the program disk



WORKBENCH 2

Select drawer icon. Select 'Copy' from 'Icons' menu.

CLI OR SHELL

Copy from Mydisk:Mydrawer to Mydisk:Newdrawer (remember the names Mydisk and Mydrawer should be replaced with the names of your disk and the existing drawer, and that Newdrawer replaced with whatever you want the name of your new drawer to be).

COPYING A DRAWER FROM ONE DISK TO ANOTHER

WORKBENCH 1.3

Drag drawer icon from the window of the disk it's on to the window of the disk you want it on. The drawer will keep its old name.

WORKBENCH 2

Drag drawer icon from the window of the disk it's on to the window of the disk you want it on. The drawer will keep its old name.

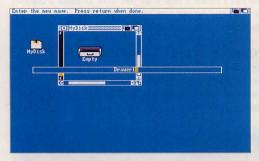
CLI OR SHELL

copy from Olddisk: Mydrawer to Newdisk: Mydrawer (remember the names Olddisk, Newdisk and Mydrawer should be replaced with the names of your disks and the existing drawer: and if you want the copy of the drawer to have a different name, replace the second occurence of the name with what you want the name of your new drawer to be).

RENAMING A DRAWER

WORKBENCH 1.3

Select drawer icon. Select 'Rename' from 'Workbench' menu. Delete the old name in the box that appears on screen, type new name, press Return.



When you are renaming something, the old name will apper in a box like this. delete the old name, type the new one and then press Return.

WORKBENCH 2

Select drawer icon. Select 'Rename' from 'Icons' menu. Delete the old name in the box that appears on screen, type new name, click on 'OK'.

CLI OR SHELL

You don't need to: you've given it your own name already.

DELETING A DRAWER

WORKBENCH 1.3

Drag the drawer icon to the Trashcan. Select 'Empty Trash' from 'Disk' menu.

WORKBENCH 2

Drag the drawer icon to the Trashcan. Select 'Empty Trash' from 'Icons' menu. Alternatively, select drawer icon then select 'Delete' from 'Icons' menu.

CLI OR SHELL

delete Mydisk: Mydrawer (provided the drawer is completely empty)

delete Mydisk:Mydrawer all (if the drawer is not empty, but you want to get rid of all the files inside the drawer too).

DUPLICATING A FILE

WORKBENCH 1.3

Select file icon. Select 'Duplicate' from 'Workbench'



The job of making a copy of a file, drawer or even disk is simply a matter of selecting its icon and then choosing the appropriate menu option.

WORKBENCH 2

Select file icon. Select 'Copy' from 'Icons' menu.

CLI OR SHELL

Copy from Mydisk:Myfile to Mydisk:Newfile (remember that the names Mydisk and Myfile should be replaced with the names of your disk and the existing file, and that Newfile should be replaced with whatever you want the name of your new file to be).

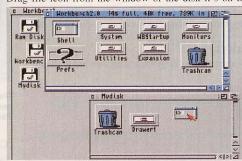
COPYING A FILE FROM ONE DISK TO ANOTHER

WORKBENCH 1.3

Drag file icon from the window of the disk it's on to the window of the disk you want it on. The file will keep its old name.

WORKBENCH 2

Drag file icon from the window of the disk it's on to



Copying a file from one disk to another couldn't be easier: all you have to do is drag it to the new disk, as we are doing to the CLI itself in this picture.

the window of the disk you want it on. The file will keep its old name.

CLI OR SHELL

copy from Olddisk:Myfile to Newdisk:Myfile (remember that the names Olddisk, Newdisk and Myfile should be replaced with the names of your disks and the existing file: and if you want the copy of the file to have a different name, replace the second occurence of the name with whatever you want the name of your new file to be).

RENAMING A FILE

WORKBENCH 1.3

Select file icon. Select 'Rename' from 'Workbench' menu. Delete the old name in the box that appears on screen, type new name, press Return.

WORKBENCH 2

Select file icon. Select 'Rename' from 'Icons' menu. Delete the old name in the box that appears on screen, type new name, click on 'OK'.



It's easy to call a file, drawer or disk anything you want with the rename option: just remember not to put spaces, a clolon (:) or a backslash (?) in the name you choose.

CLI OR SHELL

You don't need to: you've given it your own name already.

DELETING A FILE

WORKBENCH 1.3

Drag the file icon to the Trashcan. Select 'Empty Trash' from 'Disk' menu.

WORKBENCH 2

Drag the file icon to the Trashcan. Select 'Empty Trash' from 'Icons' menu. Alternatively, select file icon then select 'Delete' from 'Icons' menu.

CLI OR SHELL

delete Mydisk: Myfile (remember to replace the disk name and the file name with the names of your disk and your file).



One way of deleting a file from Workbench is to drag it to the Trashcan. Only when you actually choose the 'Empty Trash' menu option will the file be deleted.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL, FOLKS!

Well, that's enough for this month at least. Next month, we'll take a tour of the drawers on the Workbench disk and see what all the programs on it are for. There's some fun stuff in there, too. In the meantime, if you have any difficulties with the stuff you've learnt so far, do write in to Workbench, **AMIGA FORMAT**, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW and we'll make a special effort to answer your letter in print.



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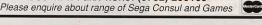
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The at-a-glance guide to the Workbench menus

You might find it rather difficult to open all the Workbench menus at the same time, but through the magic of television – or rather, magazines – we've been able to do it. Here's a complete guide to what all those menu options do, to make you a real Workbench expert.

WORKBENCH 1.3

WORKBENCH MENU

Opens a window for a disk or drawer, or launches a program, if you have selected an icon. Exactly the same as double-clicking, so pretty redundant.

Opens a window for a disk or a drawer, if you have selected a window. Exactly the same as clicking on a 'close window' gadget (the small box in the top-left corner) so again, pretty redundant.

DUPLICATE

Makes a copy of a disk, drawer or file if you have an icon selected.

RENAME

Puts up the rename requester for a disk, drawer or file if you have an icon selected. Simply delete the old name, type in the new name and then press Return.

Workbench Disk Open Empty Trash Initialize Close Duplicate Rename Info bressed

Brings up a box with all the informa-

tion about an icon, if you have an icon

selected. Icon info is very complex:

don't use this option for the time

being, because we'll explain it all

Deletes the icon for a drawer or file on

a disk, if you have an icon selected,

however it does not actually delete the

drawer or file itself. For this reason,

This deletes any files or drawers

whose icons you have put in the

do not use this option.

DISK MENU

EMPTY TRASH

Trashcan.

INITIALIZE

Formats a blank disk if you have selected a disk's icon.

Special

Redraw

Clean Up

Snapshot

Version

Last Error

SPECIAL MENU

CLEAN UP

Tidies up the icons in a window you have selected.

LAST ERROR

Redisplays the last error message Workbench displayed to you, in the bar along the top of the screen. Not very useful.

REDRAW

If you suddenly discover the comnputer's left a chunk of the screen blank somewhere (which it does from time to time), selecting this option will redraw the whole screen as it should really look.

SNAPSHOT

If you want a window to remember how big it was and where the icons in the window are, you use this option. In other words, it's for tidying up your

As it's the only important thing we haven't covered, here's how it works. Make sure the window is selected. Move all the icons to where you want them and, holding down the Shift key, select all the icons in the window. Then select this menu option. When you close the window and open it again, the icons should all be where you put them. If you also want the size and position of the window to be remembered, select the icon for the drawer or disk that the window belongs to, and select Snapshot.

VERSION

Brings up a box with information about Workbench. Click on OK to get rid of the box.

WORKBENCH 2

WORKBENCH MENU

BACKDROP

Switches whether the Workbench is a window or not. Purely aesthetic.

EXECUTE COMMAND

Brings up a mini-CLI that lets you enter one CLI command.

REDRAW ALL

Redraws the screen if there are any glitches on it (see Workbench 1.3).

Checks the whole disk to make sure that all the icons have matching files or drawers.

LAST MESSAGE

Redisplays the last error message Workbench displayed to you, in the bar along the top of the screen. Not very useful.

ABOUT...

Brings up a box with information about Workbench. Click on OK to get rid of the box.

QUIT...

Closes Workbench.

WINDOW MENU

NEW DRAWER

Creates new drawer in the currently slected window.



OPEN PARENT

Finds and opens the window inside which the current one belongs.

Closes a window.

Checks all the files and drawers in the current window to make sure they match up with their icons.

SELECT CONTENTS

Selects all the icons in a window.

CLEAN UP

Tidies up all the icons in a window into neat rows.

Stores the position and size of a window so it is the same next time you open it (Window) or stores the positions of the icons in a window (All).

SHOW

Chooses whether you want to see

files that don't have icons (All Files) or not (Only Icons). See last month.

VIEW BY

Displays files and drawers in the current window by just their name rather than by icons, along with a lot of other information: sorts them in various orders. Try it out!

ICONS MENU

Opens the window for a disk or drawer if you have the icon selected. Same as double-clicking on the icon, so a shade redundant.

Makes a duplicate of the disk, drawer or file whose icon you have selected.

Used to rename a disk, drawer or file.

INFORMATION...

Brings up a box with information

about an icon, if you have an icon selected. Icon information is very complex: don't use this option for the time being, and we'll explain it all in a current issue.

SNAPSHOT

Saves the position of all the icons in the current window.

UNSNAPSHOT

Frees up the icon currently selected so that Workbench can place it anywhere in the window.

LEAVE OUT

Lets you leave an icon lying around outside its window, where it will stay even if you reboot the Amiga.

PUT AWAY

Makes sure an icon you have left out will be put back into the darwer where it belongs.

Deletes a drawer or file.

FORMAT DISK ...

Formats a blank disk ready for use.

EMPTY TRASH

Deletes any items in the Trashcan.

TOOLS MENU

This resets the Workbench as if it had just been booted in its current configuration.

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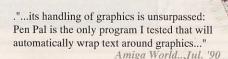
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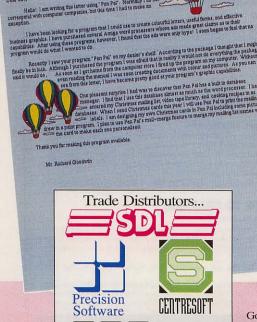
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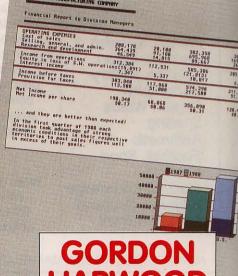
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GET THE PICTURE

FROM: GARY THOMLINSON, DONCASTER

I work as a programmer for a software publishing company. When Commodore finally got around to telling us that the A500 Plus was on its way, we bought one to do our testing on. A few weeks of using it made me realise just what a wonderful machine this was, so I sold my old 1.2 Amiga and upgraded to a Plus.

My original programming environment for the Amiga was the CLI. This makes my job pretty boring, and does nothing to keep your spirits up when trying to debug (correct the errors in) a program. That's gone forever now I have a Plus.

From a personal point of view, I think the new machine is good news for the Amiga scene. From a games developer's point of view it will, I hope, be a short-lived nightmare of incompatible software.

Where can I get a cable to connect the video out port of the Amiga (23 pins) to my SVGA monitor? This has 15 pins. Will the monitor support all the graphics modes of my machine? An experiment with a makeshift cable allowed me access to Productivity mode, but all the others became garbage. Can all the graphics be viewed, or do I need a multisync monitor?

To use an SVGA (Super Video Graphics Adaptor) monitor with an Amiga, you really need an expansion called a Flicker Fixer. Such a board will stop the flickering on interlaced graphics, but only Commodore's official one will work equally well with all graphics modes - and you can only fit it into an A1500 or an A2000. Without a flicker fixer, only productivity (a special interlace mode available with the Enhanced Chip Set) mode can be viewed on an SVGA. I don't know of any suppliers for a cable - does anyone else?

Most multisync monitors can be switched between Normal and Productivity modes, giving a better result for what you want to do. However, interlaced graphics screens will still flicker without a flicker fixer card (which can connect to multisync monitors, as well as SVGA types). What it comes down to is; SVGA monitors usually only work with Productivity mode and flicker fixers, while multisyncs work pretty well in any mode and very well with a flicker fixer. Thanks to First Choice for the info.

NOISY FAN

FROM: RUSSELL KIRK, HARROGATE

A couple of months ago I bought a GVP Series II 52 Mb hard drive for my A500. I've been absolutely delighted with it, apart from one point. The noise of the fan is driving me insane! If I disconnect the fan the noise is hardly noticeable.

Do hard drives need fans for cooling? I notice that Supra and the ICD Prima internal drives use the same Quantum 52 Mb disk mechanism as the GVP, vet they don't have fans. So can I disconnect the fan without fear of melting the casing? Can it be made less noisy? At the moment it sounds like a 2000 watt hair dryer on full blast!

Modern semiconductor technology (in other words, micro chips) only work within a limited temperature range. 45 degrees centigrade is the usual figure quoted. If you left a circuit board in desert sunshine - GVP are based in California, remember - you would find the board failing within minutes.

In the climate of the UK, you could probably leave

Workbench

The A500 Plus, GVP hard drives and updating the Amiga continue to dominate the Workbench letters. Concise questions need concise answers, provided courtesy of one Pat McDonald.



The Quantum hard drive (seen here with an ICD Prima internal unit) doesn't have a fan of any sort.

the fan disconnected from autumn to spring without a problem. However, to be on the safe side, get used to it (or drown it out by connecting your Amiga to a HiFi; which is my method).

I've recently replaced my old machine with an A500 Plus (it's a great improvement). While 99 per cent of the software on my hard drive runs fine, I've noticed a small but annoying problem with KindWords. I can use bold and italics with no problems, but I can't underline anything. Is this due to something simple or is it just down to incompatibility with the 500 Plus?

A few people have asked me this. I'm not sure at all, but as underlining involves drawing straight lines, all I can suggest is that KindWords doesn't use Workbench 2-friendly methods to underline. If anyone knows more, or of a solution, please write in.

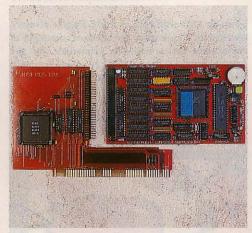
Oh yes, and are you sure that Octomed (or Med, come to that) will work with a Plus? Just because it runs doesn't mean that it works properly. The longest I've had it running for is 15 minutes, the shortest time is about 10 seconds! Then it just locks up solidly. It can't be down to lack of memory - I've got 2Mb of fast RAM and 1Mb of chip RAM.

I have to admit that Octomed does crash without fail on the A500 Plus. If you load Workbench 2 first though, then put the Octamed Coverdisk in and double click on the icon, it should work far better.

HARD PROSPECTS

FROM: D FREAR, N WALES

I am considering buying a hard drive (105 MB GVP) to run my DTP/word processing programs with ease. My A500 is over four years old, and so it has got the older Kickstart 1.2 chip in it. I am led to



I've been lucky enough to have a preproduction copy of the new KCS software. Friendly with many hard drives.

believe that this has problems with hard drives (they don't autoboot) so should I get a new ROM chip? What do I need, 1.3 or 2?

My computer has given me years of trouble-free operation, so I am wary of fiddling with it. What are the pros and cons, and what are the side effects?

Either a new 1.3 or 2.04 ROM chip will allow hard drives to autoboot (start working as soon as you switch the machine on). Both of these also allow you to use the Fast Filing System with hard drives (although 2 also lets you use it with floppies without fuss).

Kickstart 1.3 is going to give you a very similar system - the main differences between 1.2 and 1.3 are that printer drivers work faster and the filing speed advantages are described above.

Kickstart 2.04 will give you a much better look and feel than either of the previous versions, and works much faster. However, you will almost certainly find more incompatible programs with your old software and Workbench 2 than with 1.3. Your machine will also need some minor modification if you want to fit a 2 ROM chip.

If you want to use your old programs, a Kickstart ROM sharer board is the answer. Your old ROM chip and a new ROM chip plug into this board, and you can choose which ROM chip you want the machine to use by flicking a switch when the computer is off.

ROM sharers always plug into the ROM socket inside your machine. Again, a professional repair company - such as FMG (0733 391234), Ace Repairs (0503 20282) or WTS (0582 491949) - are the best people to contact if your want to organize an upgrade yourself; that is buy the bits and get them to fit it. Alternatively, most independent computer shops will handle the paperwork for a small fee.

I also use a KCS Bitcon PC emulator. Is it possible to partition a hard drive to have PC and Amiga

Continued overleaf



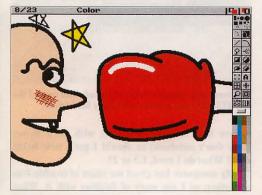
sections, and how does the KCS board react - are there any problems?

Yes, you can do this with hard drives and the KCS emulator. However, you may need to get an upgrade of the software to allow you to do this. The KCS board (with the latest software from Bitcon devices in the UK - 091-490 1919) works extremely well with PC hard drive partitions.

MAKING VIDEOS

FROM: WILLIAM PYNE, KENT

I own an A500 with 1Mb of RAM. Despite memory restrictions, I have (over the last year) managed to create some fairly reasonable animations with the graphics package Deluxe Paint IV. However could you please tell me what I need to transfer them to video tape? Is it expensive, do I need some extra parts, how much does it cost? Is it even possible with a 1Mb computer and DPaint IV?



The only really hard part when you are doing video animation is the artistic creation - sticking it onto a video tape is the easy bit. See last issue for animation techniques.

It's easy, assuming that you have a TV modulator (most A500s were supplied with these). On the modulator, you will see a connector marked 'Video'. Simply connect this to the 'Video in' connector on the video recorder. Usually a phono sound lead will accomplish this, although some videos have a Bayonet Nut Connector - phono-BNC adaptors for these can be purchased fairly easily.

Start the video recording, then simply hit the pause button. Start your animation going, and then unpause the video. The signal will whiz down the the wire and into the back of the video. To minimise the black lines on the recording, use interlace mode for your animations. You could use the TV connector (UHF) rather than the video connector, but the picture quality will not be as good and you would have to tune the video recorder to the TV.

If you want to overlay Amiga graphics on top of an existing video, then you will need two video recorders (one to play the video, the other to record) and a device called a genlock. This makes one colour of the Amiga transparent - usually colour zero, although expensive genlocks let you choose. The video being played is in the background, and you use the other video to record the mixture of the two images.

Expect to pay around £100 or so for a standard, domestic-quality genlock. As with all video equipment, you could spend a fortune - but it's possible with nearly any Amiga and just a bog-standard VHS recorder that you are likely to have sitting under your telly at the moment.

FROM: PHILIP METCALFE, DURHAM

In Amiga Format 32, you printed a clear diagram from Neville Tanner showing how to wire up a switch to choose between 1Mb of chip RAM and 0.5Mb chip/0.5Mb Fast. The diagram was correct, but the caption for it had me confused for a while.

It's wrong isn't it? There's no point cutting the track on JP2, then joining "the middle and upper solder pads" if you're going to wire a switch in there! So, for all those people who just have a switch giving 1Mb of chip RAM or a Guru ridden Amiga: cut the tracks, and solder the wires to the switch in. Let the switch make the connections!

Yes, the caption is wrong. Just cut the tracks and connect the switch as per the diagram - ignore the bit about making a bridge on JP2, as that defeats the object of the switch.

Another frequent topic is that of the capacity of the A500 power supply. At a recent computer fair my son found a box of these on a stand, all loose and in shop-soiled condition. After rooting through it, I discovered there were two different types. Some of these provided 5V at 2.5 Amps (and were made in Singapore), the others were rated at 4.3 Amps and came from China. The Chinese variety had a red sticker on, with the words "HI-Pot tested".

I checked my power pack at home and discovered that, it had a "HI-Pot tested" sticker on it and was rated at 4.3 Amps, but it was made in Singapore! It would appear that Commodore have shipped power supplies of the two different specifications, with the 4.3 Amp being a higher specification.

A500 power supplies are manufactured in China, Singapore, Honk Kong (I think), Taiwan and Germany. Even though a supply is rated at 4.3 Amps, there is no guarantee that it will give out that much, as the scorched examples in our office will prove.



The A500 power supply is only guaranteed to power one extra disk drive. Some can do much better than that, but try potential purchases to make sure you have the power.

DOOMED TO CRASH

FROM: DAVE COLLINS, SOUTHAMPTON

After reading various reviews praising the GVP Series II, and in particular being informed that it was the most reliable drive for the Amiga, I bought one for my A500.

It was great for a few hours, but then it started locking up intermittently which increased in frequency until the processor halted completely. After it had finally cooled down again all was well for a few more hours until the nightmare began all over again.

The thing that worries me most, is that after contacting various GVP dealers it became apparent that this fault was fairly common. Not a good sign for a unit that costs a small fortune. Please print this; it adds a necessary edge to reviews that make the these hard drives look so great.

All well and good, but you are wrong to think that it's a fault of the hard drive. This will happen eventually on an all Amigas, with or without a hard drive. The cause is badly-programmed software.

As programs are loaded, pictures saved and so on, the Amiga cuts sections out of memory as it needs them. When it has finished with a piece of memory, it marks that particular section of memory as available for use again.

As you start and stop different programs at different times, this has the effect of splitting the memory up into smaller and smaller parts, a process known as fragmentation. Eventually, you ask it to load a program smaller than the total available memory - but



Even the mighty GVP isn't proof against programs with poor memory management — and because it goes so fast the problem becomes more apparent. Either run with excessive memory or be choosy about your software.



WHO'S BAD?

FROM: LEE STRAUGHAN, READING

Can you tell me how much better the Amiga is than similar machines like the Atari ST (and no editorial bias please).

Well, as Neil Jackson was the technical editor on *ST Format*, I feel he is slightly better qualified than me for this. Over to you Neil:

"Which machine is right for your main application? If you're seriously thinking about spending pots of cash, you can get a 486 IBM PC-clone which is probably the fastest, most effective stock machine you can buy. Trouble is, add-ons (like sound cards, joysticks but above all software) are SO expensive that the PC falls into the business-use-only category.

"The longest-running war has always been between the Amiga and the Atari ST, because their prices are so close. Neither machine emerges as the absolute best because both have advantages and disadvantages. The ST is perfect for musicians controlling MIDI keyboards, thanks to its internal MIDI sockets and chips, whereas the Amiga needs an add-on to handle this.

"However, the ST's internal sound chip is a complete joke, it's on a par with the ancient Commodore 64 sound chip. The newer STE is better and can handle samples more effectively than its earlier counterpart, but it still can't multi-task like an



It's been a hard fight for the Amiga to overtake the earlier ST, but for most applications it's a lot better. However, Atari plan to launch an accelerated ST in the near future — will Commodore follow suit with a faster A500?

Amiga can. Playing samples through the bog-standard ST slows it down to a crawl if you're trying to do much else. The Amiga has always managed to be streets ahead of the ST in the noise-making department (which is probably one of the reasons why the ST was upgraded to the STE in the first place). If samples are your thing, think Amiga.

"On the graphics front, the ST has only 512 colours in its palette, and you can only display 16 of them at any one time. The STE increased the palette to 4,096, but didn't extend the number of paletter registers, so the upgrade was a bit pointless. All Amigas can handle 4,096 colours, with 32 on-screen at once (the additional Extra-Halfbrite and HAM modes enable 64 and 4,096 colours on-screen respectively). This makes the Amiga the obvious choice for artists.

"If you're thinking of DTP or MIDI-control the ST or STE is still worth a close look. But for games, sample-playing, graphics or video work, the Amiga wins hands down every time."

Just one point to add to that - Commodore and Vortex of Germany

are developing IBM PC 386 Bridgeboards. These plug into an A1500 or A2000, and let you use PC software and expansions with the minimum of fuss. It is doubtful whether an Amiga emulator for the PC will appear, as Commodore have a monopoly on Amiga technology. If you've got 'pots of money', a Bridgeboard system provides the best of both worlds.

because the memory is split up, it may not have a big enough slice of memory to load the program.

Because the GVP lets you use your Amiga most efficiently, this process happens quicker than with other hard drives. But it will happen eventually with all of them (and with floppies too if you use the machine for a couple of days solid).

The best way to avoid it is, every so often, to save the projects you're working on and switch the machine off for a few minutes. This will reset the memory to its full, unused state (just resetting by pressing the Ctrl key and the two keys either side of the space-bar does not reset the memory, just the computer). It's got nothing to do with the GVP overheating at all.

Well programmed software (for example *Deluxe Paint*, or *PageSetter* on the Coverdisk) keeps an eye on memory, and can tidy it up when things get tight. It warns you when there isn't a lot of memory left. But a lot of programmers don't understand the problem, and leave this sort of feature out of programs.

You can get around it by having excessive amounts of memory connected (much more than you'll actually need). Try to avoid continually loading different programs, quitting from them and reloading. Just load them up and leave them alone – the Amiga can have more than one program loaded and usable at the same time. This is called multitasking.

FROM: KJ WHITLEY, WREXHAM

I've just bought a GVP Series II hard drive for my A500, but there is something strange happening with the memory. I have added an internal 0.5Mb expansion to the inside of the computer, and the hard drive has 2Mb, giving me a total of 3Mb. I also have an external floppy disk drive.

When I try to load a 1Mb program, the computer responds with an "Out of Memory" error or

similar. I believe that the 2Mb of memory in the GVP is fast RAM, and the 1Mb of memory inside my computer is chip RAM. Is this correct? What exactly is the difference?

No A500s were shipped (as far as I know) with 1Mb of chip RAM. To get that much, the machine has to be slightly modified (**Amiga Format** issues 31 and 32 had the relevant information). To find out how much memory of each type you have, load Workbench, double click on the Shell and type (press Return to enter the command):

Avail

This will give a complete diagnosis of memory, showing how much of each type is available, as well as how much is in use by the computer system.

Will programs fail to load because the hard drive is taking up some of my chip memory? Workbench tells me that I have 2.8Mb of memory available, so some of it is being used for something. Is there any way around the problem, as I feel that with 3Mb of RAM a 1Mb program should load easily.

External floppy drives are mapped into chip memory — there is no reliable way (so far as I know) to remap them into fast memory. Turning them off saves the memory they use. However, the GVP setup software allows you to map the hard drive partitions to either type of memory.

If I were to get the 2Mb Anti Lemmin' demo by Eric Schwartz, would that load?

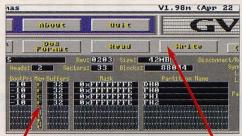
It should work fine. It works on a machine with only 1.8 Mb of RAM (only 0.5MB chip RAM) so your system should be more than ample.

Does the hard disk have a boot block? If it does, then how do I look at it? None of the virus checkers that I own seem to look at hard disks – are there any that do?

Yes, hard disks do in fact have boot blocks. None of the current virus checkers though, have such a facility and it's unlikely that one will appear. However, *Faaastprep* has the facility to rewrite the boot sectors of your hard disk.

If your hard drive stops booting and you suspect a virus has got onto the bootblock of the hard drive (rare but possible), first write protect a copy of the Faaastprep floppy disk. That is, move the tab in the corner of the disk so that you can see through the hole. This prevents viruses from copying themselves onto floppy disks.

Boot up the machine with it – your hard disk partitions should reappear (if they don't, the virus may have wiped the contents already – even rarer but still possible). Double click on *Faastprep*, select manual mode, wait for it to get the details from the drive, then click on "Write". This will write a new bootblock onto your hard disk. Then click on the box in the top left corner to quit.



F stands for fast, C for chip memory and E for public (the next available slice, regardless of type).

Clicking on this icon will write the bootblock and partition information onto the hard drive. Simple.

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On quite a few occasions you have stated that, if an A500 is modified to give 1Mb of chip RAM, and an oversized trapdoor expansion (larger than 0.5MB – the type that connects to the Gary chip) is fitted, then the extra memory is in fact lost. However, I have noticed in adverts for such boards that they can be fitted into 1Mb chip RAM A500s, and let you use the extra memory! Who is right, you or the adverts?

The adverts. To be precise, nobody (except ICD) used to make oversize trapdoor expansions that could be used with 1Mb of chip RAM. However some boards (Virgo Developments, Power Computing, Datel) have since been modified so that they can be used properly with 1Mb of chip RAM.

Does upgrading to Workbench 2, as you stated in the Down to Business article in **Amiga Format** issue 31, make external RAM expansions like the Cortex, SupraRAM and Ashcom AX508 incompatible?



Widely known as compatible with the Plus, some people got confused by a slip of mine. SupraRAM500 does work fine on an A500+!

Not at all. Such expansions can be fitted to all A500s and Pluses. I said "large capacity A500 memory boards are not compatible". What I meant to say was that "large capacity A500 TRAPDOOR memory boards are not compatible (with the Plus)". Sorry for the slip, and the confusion it caused.

I bought one of the last A500s available, just before the Plus came out. It's got a keyboard like the Plus, but does not have Workbench 2 or the ECS 8373 Denise chip. It also had Workbench 1.3.3 – can you tell me more?

The revision 7 of the B52 Rock Lobster (A500) has the same keyboard as the Plus, with two blank keys, but it does not have the Plus' Agnus chip (the 8375) or Workbench 2. Workbench 1.3.3 was supplied with very few machines indeed. Just think of it as a standard A500 with a slightly odd keyboard – the blank keys are used in other European countries for special foreign characters.

Can the A500 be changed in every respect to a Plus?

Yes, but not all of them, and not for a while yet. Revision 6 and 7 A500s can take 1Mb of memory on the computer's circuit board. Together with lots of jumper making and track cutting, fitting an ECS Denise, a Kickstart 2.04 ROM chip, the same Agnus chip as the Plus (the 8375) and populating the empty RAM chip sockets.

Answerfile

Getting to grips with the Amiga is a difficult task – why not get a few handy hints from Pat McDonald?

Admittedly, revision 6 machines will have a different keyboard, but that's largely a cosmetic difference. Such a machine will take Plus internal RAM expansions, to give 2Mb of chip RAM. A500 internal expansions (except for 0.5Mb trapdoor RAM expansions) will not work in the machine. The fly in the ointment though, is that the 8375 Agnus chip is not available as a replacement part yet.

Could you please tell me what a modem is exactly? Plus what are the advantages and disadvantages of buying one?



Supra also make a fine range of modems. Although they are not approved by British Telecom, they do work — so think twice before you buy one.

A modem is a separate add on that lets you connect a computer to a telephone line. It can dial a number (usually this is handled from the computer nowadays, by a system called the Hayes protocol) and connect to a modem on the other end of a phone line, which is connected to a computer. The computers don't have to be the same model or make — you can dial in to many different systems or 'services' as they are called.

The advantages of a modem are; you can easily get new releases of PD utilities, by downloading them from bullletin boards; you can play online games, against other human players (like *Air Warrior* or MUD); and you can communicate with many thousands of computer users all over the world through networks (handy when you want to find out some information). There are other uses for a modem but most of them are illegal.

The disadvantages of a modem are; it costs money to make the telephone calls (although the faster the modem, the shorter the calls – modem speed is measured as 'baud rate'); and it ties up the telephone line (you can't make other calls while the modem is connecting your computer to another system). Look for the best priced, 2400 baud or faster, Hayes compatible modem. If it has MNP5 error correction, even better.

Is it true that no future software will work with old Amigas?

No, but 'Plus only' releases will appear in future years. For the moment, programmers are

concentrating on making programs that work on all releases of the Amiga, rather than concentrating on squeezing the best performance out of Workbench 2 and the ECS.

At the moment, most Amiga owners (in the UK at least) have an A500 with Kickstart 1.3, Workbench 1.3, 0.5Mb of chip RAM, 0.5Mb of fast RAM. When the number of people who have Workbench 2 (either by buying a Plus or upgrading their computer) gets close to being the biggest market, then "Plus only" or "1Mb chip RAM" programs will start appearing. Probably towards the end of 1992.

Is it true that you need 1Mb of chip RAM to use CDTV software?

YES. Amiga CD will need 1Mb of chip RAM, which is a good thing – it means that CD titles always use 1Mb of chip RAM, for more frames of graphics, copper lists, sound samples and so on. A well written CD game would look much better than a standard Amiga one.

If I want to program the Amiga (I have an A500 Plus), what do I need? I think I need a word processor, but I'm not sure.

Not exactly. A word processor lets you create files on a disk that contain letters and numbers (alphanumeric data). The best example I can think of is the "Readme" document files on the Coverdisk.

However, the Amiga does not really understand anything about words, pictures, colours, speech, joysticks or mice; it sees such things merely as sets of numbers. Talking to it in its very own language (called machine code) is very time consuming and difficult to pick up, although it produces the shortest and fastest programs.

The most common form of machine code programming is called assembly language – this uses the same number processing that the computer understands, but represents them using short words instead. These are called 'low level' methods of programming, because you are involved very close to the machine.

To get around this problem, the early computer pioneers invented 'high level' languages. These are much easier to get on with from a human point of view, because the commands used to tell the computer what to do are very close to English.

The most common high-level language is called BASIC (Beginner's All Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code). It was designed for people who didn't want to know how computers worked. It's certainly not the best language from the computer's point of view, because it takes time to translate BASIC commands into pure machine code.

The best all around version of BASIC for the Amiga is called AMOS. AMOS let's you use the graphic and sound gadgetry of the machine without knowing how it works. For beginners, a special version has been released, called Easy AMOS. Read about it for yourself on Page 144.



Since I got my hard drive, every time the computer boots up it puts up the message "Pure bit not set". Although nothing sinister appears to be happening, it's beginning to drive me up the wall.

With the Amiga, all files on a disk have a number of protection flags. These indicate whether the file is readable, writeable, editable, deletable or archived. A further bit, the pure bit, says whether or not the file can be made resident – loaded into the Amiga's memory for future usage.

Somewhere in the startup-sequence of your hard drive a command, something like the following, is causing problems (I've used the command Execute, purely for example):

Resident c/execute pure add

The Amiga is trying to make the file resident, but the pure bit isn't set. To set it, you use the Protect command, as in this (from the Shell);

Protect c/execute prwed

The value "prwed" means set the pure flag, the readable flag, the writeable flag, the editable flag, and the deletable flag. The archive flag is usually used by hard disk backup software, to see whether a file has been backed up or not.

Is it possible to connect a Hewlett Packard plotter to my Amiga? The plotter has a serial port, but the manual only gives details for the IBM PC and Commodore PET. Do I need a driver?

Yes it is, but very little software makes use of plotters, except for CAD (Computer Aided Design) programs. You don't need a driver, but a CAD program which can output in HPGL (Hewlett Packard Graphics Language, the industry standard for plotters).

One such program is the XCAD series. XCAD 2000 (works with 1Mb) costs £79.95, and is the lower end CAD product available for the Amiga; believe me, that's very cheap for a decent CAD program. XCAD 3000 needs 2Mb, as does XCAD 3D. All of them can output designs to *Imagine* 2, the popular and powerful 3D rendering system. So you could submit a design blueprint on paper using the plotter, and do a video of what the design will look like using *Imagine*. XCAD products are available from – and well supported by – Computech Services (0702 523966).

I bought an A500 Plus at Christmas, and although I can load the *Deluxe Paint* program disk, I can't load the Animation or Art disks. Please tell me how to do this.

You don't. First you load the *Deluxe Paint* program disk. Then you load in the examples to *Deluxe Paint* – they are stored on the other disks!

The majority of multidisk programs use this approach; one of the disks contains the program, the others contain the data. So you get program disks (which you can load and run) and data disks (which you need to load from within another program). Data disks are usually called mission disks where flight simulators are concerned.

Try to get used to the idea of reading manuals. They tend to be easier to understand when you have the computer software running in front of you.

Indepth Explanation Number 2: Floppies



There are so many different types of floppy available — choosing the right one is simply a question of buying a Roclite (from Roctec) and separate expansions like virus protectors, copiers, and boot switchers, or getting them all built into a Power Computing PC880B.

Floppy disk drives are a standard on the Amiga. When you buy software, it always comes on a floppy. The only other method of distributing programs is by CD, which is still underdeveloped but will match floppies in years to come. So for the moment, get used to floppies.

One of the greatest pains for new users is the need to swap disks when using Workbench. It's so irritating to be forever taking disks out and plonking others back in. The best way to get around this is to buy an external disk drive. That way, you can leave the Workbench disk in the internal disk drive, and do any disk swaps using the external drive. (No Amiga except the A1500 has two drives as standard — a great pity: because to use the Amiga seriously two drives are essential).

The Amiga was launched with the capacity of having up to four floppy drives connected at once (you can usually plug extra drives into the back of each other in a daisy chain). The circuitry for controlling and handling floppies was built-in from the start, which in English means that connecting a floppy drive is usually a case of plugging it in and forgetting about it. The Amiga recognizes it and assigns memory for it at start up.

Because the Amiga assigns memory for an external drive, whether it's got one or not, it can be a strain when you've a memory-hungry game. Luckily, most external drives have an off switch, so you can turn off and run memory intensive programs, without unplugging the disk drive.

The way that information is stored on a disk is a field in itself, but the general principles are this. To the computer, a disk looks like a series of concentric rings. Each ring is called a track. Each track is split into different pieces, called sectors. One or two tracks of a disk are used to store a directory; this contains the name of the disk, and a list of all the files on the disk, as well as lists of sectors where the files are stored. The first two sectors of the first track (track zero) are reserved for a boot block, to automatically start a program on a disk when it is inserted into the machine (for more on bootblocks, see **Amiga Format** 32).

The lifetime expectancy of a floppy disk drive varies. In general, internal drives on the Amiga wear out much faster than externals, because until Workbench 2 came along you had to boot disks (automatically make them run) by putting them in the internal drive ('DF0:', short for Disk, Floppy, zero). An internal drive will last from between two to five years.

With Kickstart 2, you can choose between which drive you want to boot from. Just keep both mouse buttons pressed as you turn the machine on, and a menu will appear. This system lets you spread the work load among your drives (and is yet another good reason to upgrade if you haven't got it already).

Even when a disk drive won't boot a disk anymore (a common symptom on Amigas that are three years old or more) it can be refurbished. Refurbishing means dismantling, cleaning, recalibrating and reassembling the unit — an operation best left to the experts. The best places to get floppy drives refurbished are local independent computer shops.

It is possible to expansions for your floppy disk drive, and they are without a doubt the cheapest range of peripherals you can get. Common types to be found are; the anti-click board (which stops your drives from ticking when no disks have actually been inserted); the boot switcher (to let you boot from any disk drive); the virus protector (stops disks being written on, so stops viruses from spreading); and the Cyclone copier (a widely available back-up device that needs two drives).

Software for floppies is less diverse; there are only two categories. The first is repair; packages available to heal or retrieve information from a damaged floppy range from the naff Diskdoctor command supplied with every Amiga, to pretty good PD utilities like DiskSalv, up to commercial programs like BAD or (my favourite) Quarterback Tools.

The other is for reading and writing disks that are not designed for the Amiga. There are a lot of programs that let you read and write PC disks. Unfortunately, none of them (so far as I know) work with Kickstart 2. Unless of course you know different?

If you're buying a floppy drive, the best are the RocLite types by Roctec. They're small, fast and simple; and they only cost about £5 more than inferior designs. Power Computing's (0234 843388) PC880B costs about £75, but does incorporate a backup utility and anti-virus switch.



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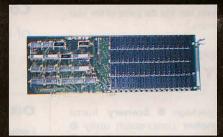
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CONSOLE COMPETITOR

A friend of mine says that his Sega Megadrive is better than an Amiga and has better games and graphics. He is always going on about *John Madden 92*, *Strider* and *Sonic the Hedgehog*. Please, please, please prove to him that Amigas are better than Megadrives or the rest of my life will be destined to listen to "Megadrive this, Megadrive that".

Damian Connon, Cushondall, Co Antrim

Ooh, what a giveaway! The simple fact that Strider is one of the games mentioned tells you what the best answer is: Strider, like so many other console games, was on the Amiga first!

Wherever you look, console owners are desperate to get their hands on Amiga games like Kick Off, Populous and James Pond 2: Robocod easily outclasses most console games at their own game! All the best, most original stuff started out on the Amiga.

Plus, can your console-owning friend play flight sims with the full realistic complexity that only a keyboard can provide? I don't think so. Can he create his own pictures, animations and music? I think not. There's really no comparison, is there?

ACTION REPLAY



The Dreaded March Issue (regular readers will remember that we took some stick over the balance of the content of that issue,

the one with all the CD reviews in - Ed). A CD-ROM player is something I've been having a quiet dribble over for some time now, and it was great to find out how good the current software is.

Incidentally, a CD full of fonts for use in DTP packages or *AMOS* would be a boon. The Mac users get them – how about us?

Finally, Amiga-spotting. Hmmm, a bit like trainspotting, n' est-ce pas? Anyway, my binoculars and notepad have helped me to spot our beloved Amy on TV on three occasions: *The Cloning of Joanna May*

Letters

We've had another jam-packed postbag this month, but in the true spirit of exploration we've ventured to its very depths to find out what's on your minds. Editor **Damien Noonan** argues, agrees and asserts as another massive batch of opinions hits the press.

(confirming the 'possible' from last issue); *Filipino Dreamgirls* on BBC2, where Lee Cornes was using one with a DTP package; and finally on *Red Dwarf V*: 'Holoship', during Rimmer's entrance test, and 'Terraform', when Lister encounters Kryten's robotic hand. I also glimpsed an Amiga mouse on *GamesMaster*, but perhaps that's cheating...

Mark A Cooper, Stainforth, Doncaster

I'm in a generous mood this month, so you get an **Amiga Format** T-shirt and binder for being the first reader to spot the Red Dwarf Amigas. Remember, readers, we're trying to spot the Amiga on the telly, with Neighbours, Lovejoy and so on already confirmed sightings.

Rolf Harris' Carton Club doesn't count, and I'm the first to mention the appearance of Rombo's excellent Take 2 animation system on Motormouth, where it starred along with Aardman Animations, the guys behind Creature Comforts.

As for CD titles: I feel that the only way you can decide whether it's worth splashing out nearly £300 on a CD-ROM drive is to know how good the software is, and I'm grateful for your support on that one.

Last of all, don't forget that your first chance to take a look at the A570 Amiga CD-ROM drive in the flesh, as it were, will be at the Amiga Shopper Show in London on May 15-17, so see you there!

CONSOLE KICKING

Why are games machines so popular? It's not as if they are cheaper. Nintendo games cost as much as the console itself and the graphics and sound are terrible. 'It has stereo bleeps', as my friend says.

Jared Schiller, Southampton
Continued overleaf

LEMMINGS AND WORLD WAR 2: THE CONNECTION REVEALED



Please find attached top secret photocopied documentation that suggests an undeniable and disturbing connection

between the 1942 North African conflict and Psygnosis' Lemmings.

This highly classified photo appears in the *Pictorial History of Australians at War*, Volume 2, page 134. Recently, a detachment of the Australian Central Intelligence Committee, working closely with NATO forces, was able to penetrate the defences of Frankston Public Library and borrow the described volume for a period of two weeks.

Current theories suggest that lemmings were, in fact, a Nazi anti-personnel weapon. Please note that on this picture you can actually see, just starting up the curve of the archway, what is obviously a small group of lemmings crossing the arch to read the standard 'Heaven' directive code word which is, of course, inscribed on the wall of the El Alamein train station.

It can now be revealed that modern lemmings are in fact a carefully-planned Neo-Nazi tool. Each of us, while innocently playing Lemmings, is actually



EL ALAMEIN: is this old photograph proof that lemmings were active in the Second World War?

training hundreds of tiny soldiers, perfecting their skills and teamwork. Think about it: the weaker lemmings have to make the exit or die, the skilled Lemming exits via a mysterious hatch. Where on earth do they go...?

Rod Clifton, Frankston, Victoria, Australia



CLOSE TO HEAVEN: the mysterious connection between a wall in Africa and an imaginary inferno.

A fascinating piece of pictorisal evidence, but I'm not convinced by the conspiracy theory. :Lemmings are far too cute, fluffy and terminally stupid to be involved in any kind of plot. Still, your detective work deserves a prize of an Amiga Format T shirt and binder: it's on the way via the Rhine and Italy,

HOW TO CONTACT AMIGA FORMAT

You can be certain of getting your enquiry to the magazine dealt with only if you make quite sure you're addressing your letter to the right person or place.

- · We can never give personal replies by mail, so don't send us a stamped-addressed envelope
- · We can under no circumstances give personal replies by fax, so please don't ask us to.
- · We are available for enquiries by telephone every Tuesday between 10am and 6pm, and we'll be happy to talk to you then.
- Our advertising department can help with problems with companies who advertise in the magazine if you phone during normal office hours.
- · Our subscriptions service and the Amiga Format mail order department are not in the same building and can be contacted on 0458 74023.

WORKBENCH

If you have any problems with the technical side of your Amiga, with hardware or with serious software, Pat will try to answer you in the mag. Alternatively, if you have any advice for others or any handy tips to share, send it in and you could win a prize. WORKBENCH

AMIGA FORMAT, 30 MONMOUTH STREET, BA1 2BW

GAMEBUSTERS

If you've just found the cheat mode, mapped out the levels or found all the passwords for the latest game, send it in to Maff and you could win a prize. Or if you're stuck, ask Helping Hand for advice - or solve someone else's problem and win a prize! MAFF EVANS, GAMEBUSTERS AMIGA FORMAT, 30 MONMOUTH STREET, BA1 2BW

LETTERS

The Letters pages are for you to air your views and share your opinions: please remember not to ask questions that should be in Workbench! Damien is looking for thought-provoking or entertaining letters, the shorter the better. Prizes for the best two. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AMIGA FORMAT, 30 MONMOUTH STREET, BA1 2BW

COMPETITIONS

To enter a competition, write the answers and your name, address and phone number on the back of a postcard or a stuck-down envelope and send it in. You can enter as many times as you wish, but all entries must be posted separately: don't put several entries in one envelope together, or include entries with letters to any other part of the mag. COMPETITION, AMIGA FORMAT.

29 MONMOUTH STREET, BATH BA1 2DL

SPECIAL OFFERS

If you've ordered anything from the Amiga Format Mail Order section and you've got a problem, please remember that we on the magazine don't deal with it at all. Write to them at our Somerton address or phone 0458 74011.

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Similarly, if you move house and want to make sure your copy of the mag catches up with you, then send the new address to

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FAULTY COVERDISKS

The disks are duplicated and stuck on the magazine by a firm who we employ for that specific purpose. If you have a faulty disk, send it to them enclosing an SAE. We don't keep stocks of disks, so we can't help. DISKCOPY LABS, UNIT A, WESTMARCH, LONDON ROAD, DAVENTRY, NORTHANTS, NN11 4SA

PIRACY: THE **DEBATE GOES ON...**

Piracy: dirty word, dirty scene. But there is a nice 'n' simple way of cracking it!

Say, for argument's sake, that a company sells 25,000 copies of a top game at £25 each. That's a total of £625,000, OK? Right, top games are very often hacked, cracked and packed before they are even released. Probably 100,000 people get hold of pirated copies of a big game.

Now if the game sold for £10 instead. If it's a good game, no-one could resist it at that price. All the people who bought it at £25 plus all the people who got pirated copies would buy it, so that's 125,000 times £10, which is £1,250,000. Not bad, eh?

That also leads to a chain reaction of higher royalties for the programmers which leads to even more teams writing better software, so the industry just gets better and better.

Tim Long, Taunton

It's a great theory, but the problem is nobody knows exactly how the figures would stack up in reality: there's just no way of being sure that many people would pay for a genuine copy of a game if it were cheaper.

Some companies have tried releasing 'brand new' games at a lower price, and it hasn't worked for them. Unfortunately, what they tend not to realise is that that's because they weren't particularly good games, but after dipping their toes in the water and finding the temperature pretty darned cold they've been put off any further experiments.

What it would be interesting to discover is how much the software houses expect to make back from the development of a game. For example, I recently read an interview in a newspaper with the owner and director of a highly successful book publishing company. His attitude to the success of his publications, which are just as chancy as games in terms of whether or not they succeed, was revealing.

He said that at a well-run publishing company, only 10 per cent of projects would end up as major flops, losing money. Of the remainder, 70 per cent would break even, covering costs and keeping the company ticking over. It's the remaining 20 per cent that should become big hits, bringing in the profits and making the whole enterprise worthwhile

I strongly suspect, though I have no real evidence to back this up, that most software companies expect a much higher return than that. I think they expect to make some kind of profit from every project: which makes them very wary of trying anything new and puts its own limit on how far they can expand into the

The inevitable result of this is that software companies are not going to make the first move. They're going to go for the unpiratable media, like cartridges, where a profit is almost guaranteed. When the cash rolls in, they are not going to have any incentive to cut prices: we've just got to hope that competition gets fierce and the price-drop follows.

ROBBED!



Returning home to my bedsit I discovered to my surprise that my door was unlocked. Surprise turned to horror when I opened

my door to discover I'd been burgled.

Someone had broken into the loft through the neighbouring toilet and smashed a hole through the

ceiling to drop conveniently into my room. Apart from the devastation that was caused to my room through plaster and the contents of all the cupboards and drawers being thrown around, very little had actually been stolen. Except, of course, for my Amiga 500, colour monitor, all my software and a few other little accessories.

The moral of the story? Insure your Amiga - it can happen to you! I was naïve enough to believe I lived in a secure household and insurance was an unnecessary luxury. It will now be a very long time before I can afford to replace my set-up as I'm still paying for my old one.

Stephen Word, Sheffield

That's desperately unlucky and you have our deepest sympathy: we're sending you a prize of an Amiga Format T-shirt and binder to help cheer you up a bit. You also deserve a prize for pointing out so eloquently to other the dangers of crime.

I know only too well how easy it is to assume "it won't happen to me" - the contents of my flat aren't insured and they darned well ought to be, but I just haven't got around to it. Contents insurance will cover your Amiga and all the other stuff in your place of residence and only costs about £40-£60, so you know it makes sense.

Another thing that has to be worth mentioning is that you can get insurance cover with most hire purchase agreements: it costs hardly anything and it simply has to be worth doing. There's nothing worse than still having to pay for something after you've had it nicked from you.

Finally, in many high-risk areas the police organize schemes to invisibly mark your property with your postcode. While it won't necessarily stop the stuff from being half-inched in the first place, this will help the police track down your property when someone comes to try and flog it through the local small ads. Get info from your local council.

DUAL STANDARDS?

I have written to complain! Two years ago you reviewed Ghouls 'n' Ghosts which then cost £24.99 and you gave it over 90 per cent and an Amiga Format Gold award. However, you reviewed it on budget (£7.99) this issue and only gave it 54 per cent, because there are better platform games around.

Surely, though, the gameplay remains the same and just because there may be better games around, this should not be a reason to give it a lower mark

Patrick Welmeier, Reading

A very good point, intelligently argued. I must admit to mixed feelings on this one.

Yes, two years on standards have changed and the idea of what makes a good game changes. Games have got better, new games have appeared of a particular kind that knock spots off the older ones. And the 'public taste' changes. So there is definitely a case for saying some older games wouldn't look as good today as they did two years ago.

Then there's the originality factor: a game might be strikingly original and appealingly new then, but not any more. It does count.

On the other hand, the game costs less than a third now of what it did then (was that grammatical?) and so it is bound to be better value for the same gameplay. Plus I've always rather enjoyed Ghouls 'n' Ghosts. I have to say I think dear old James was probably a bit harsh on that one. Anyone else have an opinion on the game? (Not you, Raf Cecco!)



POPULARITY POLL

So you want to know why we want more Letters, do you? Well, there are thousands of Amiga owners who belong to clubs where they are able to meet other users and swap ideas, information and so on.

Then there are the thousands of Amiga owners who aren't even sure that anyone else owns one of these wonderful machines.

You Letters pages brings lonely souls closer together, giving them an opportunity to voice opinions, ask advice or even just be reassured that there are still people using the Amiga.

Mick Hill, Sheringham

It's a nice idea, if a little bit sad in an Eleanor Rigby kind of way, but I'm still not convinced of the truth of it. After all, you can't actually meet anyone face-toface by reading the Letters pages. If anyone has an opinion about the psychological appeal of our Letters pages, I'm still keen to hear a convincing one. Meanwhile, we should soon have the results of last month's massive Amiga Format survey, which will tell us if you still want more Letters!

MORE POP POLL

In Issue 30 you asked why us readers like the Letters pages so much. Well, as well as the rest of the magazine, the Letters pages are very, very informative and the replies you make are usually very funny.

Charles Fabri, Bourne, Lincolnshire

I must say, I thought the replies had been rather dull of late. We'll have to start spicing things up a bit, eh? Can anyone think of a good joke? No? Oh, dear...

PUB POLL

You ask why so many people enjoy the Letters pages so much. When was the last time you were in the pub having a chat with the locals or talking with your mates, finding out the latest gossip?

Well, that's what it's like. The problem is, the experience only lasts for 10 or 20 minutes. great down the pub for 20 minutes! So please, consider extending the Letters pages.

David Shattu

Naturally I don't know what you mean, because I wouldn't be seen dead in one of those disreputable public house places. Or would I?

PC HUNT

In the News section of Issue 30 of Amiga Format I read about the new version of the C emulator from Vortex, but what I am really interested in is the Amiga emulator that's available for the PC which you mentioned in the same article. Therefore I would like you to send me the name, address and phone number of this company, please.

Adrian Linstow, Denmark

We'd be happy to, but unfortunately we have lost our record of who it is that is making the Amiga emulator for the PC. As soon as we find out again, we will certainly be printing an article about it.

OLD OWNER ABANDONED?

I welcome with pleasure the announcement that there are now over 1,000,000 Amiga owners in the UK.

WRITE A LETTER, WIN A PRIZE - MAYBE!

Has it ever occurred to you to wonder why newspapers and magazines offer prizes to people who write them letters? Generally, I've always assumed, it's because they're desperately short of letters to print. We don't have any such problem. We always get stacks of letters: but we keep on giving the best, most interesting, thought-provoking or amusing a prize of an Amiga Format T-shirt and binder, partly because we're such generous souls, but also because we think your efforts deserve reward.

Write to... 'Letters', Amiga Format, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW. Oh, and while you're reading these pages, it's worth remembering that one letter printed often represents about 50 we've received saying the same thing, so if you've ever thought "Quite right too!" when you read someone's opinions, you're very likely far from being on your own!

Now, assuming around 200,000 of the new Kickstart 2 machines have been sold over Christmas, that leaves about 800,000 Kickstart 1.2/1.3 owners. What has happened to this silent majority? Don't they feel they have been dumped on from a great height by Commodore?

Yes, I may be able to upgrade to 2.04, but nobody is quite sure because I have a 1.2 Revision 5 machine. And at what cost? Well, about £170 - £80 for the 2.04 upgrade, £45 for the Fatter Agnus and £45 for the ECS Super Denise. Altogether, half the price of a new Amiga: plus the cost of getting someone competent to

Continued on Page 223

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put in the chips, plus the associated soldering and track cutting for my revision.

Why don't Commodore do the sensible thing and offer us registered owners an upgrade to a completely new machine at a reasonable price. After all, it is not the new owners who have put the Amiga in its strong market position: it is the other 800,000 of us.

To add insult to injury, preliminary reports suggest that the A690 will not be compatible with 1.2 or 1.3 machines without circuit modifications and Agnus chip upgrades. Again totally at our inconvenience and expense. So come on, the other 799,999 of you: do as I have done and write to Commodore UK to demand that they offer us upgrades at a non-rip-off price.

Roy Davies, Ledbury

I find this letter interesting and well expressed, and I have to say I agree with it. But at the same time, I do wonder of it ignores a few hard, commercial realities.

There do seem to be a substantial number of people who are disgruntled with the fact that the Amiga 500 Plus is a far superior spec machine to theirs. But it's almost as if Commodore owe it to them to give them the upgrade free. Why should they?

Think of it this way. If you buy a Ford Fiesta one year, then next year Ford bring out a new model, you don't expect them to offer you a cheap trade-in to the new one, do you? Or perhaps you do, I don't know.

We've had a lot of people asking us lately whether we think it's worth their while upgrading to the new machine's specification. And the honest answer is no it's not

The new Denise gives access to two new high-resolution graphics display modes. These can only be used with an expensive multisync monitor and are only suited to certain kinds of professional work, like DTP, where a very high resolution is required. If you were going to do DTP professionally, you wouldn't do it on a 500 anyway: you'd pick a larger machine. I'd be willing to bet that not one A500 Plus owner in the UK uses the new graphics modes regularly.

The other big change is the new Agnus chip, which gives 2Mb of Chip memory. As we have seen, this has been more of a hindrance to A500 Plus owners than it has been a help: they've discovered that lots of programs won't run purely in Chip memory, and very few are using the kinds of program which actually take advantage of extra Chip memory.

Even if it's just the Workbench 2 upgrade you're considering, I honestly believe it's not worth forking out the cash for: unless you have a hard drive. If you're using your Amiga a lot for serious use, with a hard drive, then the advantages of having a proper, viable WIMP interface are immense. But otherwise, it does not really give you any extra power than older versions of Workbench did.

So, if there's no advantage in the upgrade, where does this leave us? Pretty confused, really. I know we have been advocating the A500 Plus and Workbench 2, but only in the same way we would praise the new Ford Fiesta over the old one if we were a car magazine. The A500 plus is a genuine improvement: but it's not worth chucking lots of money at your old Amiga to bring it up to the same standard.

Where I agree with you completely and utterly, however, is in the matter of the A570 (the thing that used to be called the A690) CD-ROM drive. This gadget will not work with Kickstart 1.2 and it will require 1Mb of Chip memory, which instantly cuts out more than half the Amiga owners out there. It seems unlikely that Commodore will strive to bring the price of this conversion down to a feasible price.

TOO HIGH A PRICE?

I don't know where some people buy their software! I have had my Amiga for four years and have never spent more than £20 on software. I have quite a few titles in my collection, including *Jimmy White Snooker*, *Thunderhawk*, *F-19 Stealth Fighter* and *M1 Tank Platoon*, all these for less than £20 each. Might I suggest people try mail order or join a software club.

Tim Booth, Bradford

That's all well and good, but in any case you can often get games only a few weeks after release in high street stores for around £17.99. But many people can't afford to buy games regularly at that sort of price mark, the same way they can afford to buy music CDs or videos that cost half the price. Besides, it seems that you don't use your Amiga for anything more than playing games: it's very often the useful or creative software that costs a lot more.

UPGRADE CITY

I'm concerned about upgrades for games software, the reason for this is highlighted by Anco's *Kick Off* series. Over the years I've bought *Kick Off* (£25), *Player Manger* (£25), *Kick Off* 2 (£25) and the *European Data Disk* (£7), and in the coming year I will no doubt buy *Player Manager* 2 (£25) and *Kick Off* 3 (£25). That's a total of £132 on what is essentially the same game with a few extra features added.

So why don't Anco release the base game and then make subsequent upgrades available at a lower price? They could charge, say, £40 for the original game and then maybe £10 or £15 for the upgrades.

Tony "Striker" Martin, Peterborough

The problem with the plan is that most companies do not know when they release a game originally that it is going to be popular enough to make an upgrade system worthwhile. I was, however, under the impression that Anco were planning to release Kick Off 3 as a cheaper upgrade to current owners. We'll update this when there's more news on Kick Off 3. I still think Kick Off 2 is the best game eyer.

MORE UPGRADES

My big interest is military simulations, the best of these being *Harpoon* by Three-Sixty. The simulation is excellent, comprising a main program disk and a disk containing *Battleset 1*. It is stated quite clearly in the manual that "other *Battlesets* simulating campaigns in other areas of the world will be offered as a separate purchase which will run with your original software".

For some time I have waited eagerly for the first of these to be released, then finally last week I spotted *Battleset 2* in a local software shop. Imagine my horror when I read that to get *Battleset 2* I must purchase a second copy of the program disk! I queried it with the shop assistant and was informed that this was due to changes made in the main program.

While I enjoy the game a great deal, I resent having to purchase programs twice. If Three Sixty wish to upgrade the program, then why not offer existing owners the option of exchanging the original disks for the updated version for a small fee?

I realise this in no way excuses software piracy, but I feel that if manufacturers continue in this manner then they are just providing excuses for pirates to continue plying their trade.

Paul Cooper, Melbourne, Derbyshire

This sort of behaviour isn't at all fair or reasonable, but I don't believe the information the shop assistant gave you was entirely correct. The program is distributed over here by Electronic Arts: telephone them on 0753 549442 and they will be glad to help.

PIRACY DEBATE

When I was walking down the high street in my local town centre the other day, I saw a bloke with a wooden leg and a crutch. He had a hook for a hand and a patch over one eye and was ranting on about how he had just had his hair washed and conditioned and he now couldn't do a thing with it. Later on, it occurred to me that he was one of these "soft-hair pirates" we hear so much about. Next time I see him I'll kick him in the crutch, OK?

Kevin Wigman, Woking

The last ever Quote of the Month!

Way back in the mists of time, we started putting a cryptic little quotation on the Contents pages and offering a little prizette to the first person each month to identify where it came from. Well, you've all lost interest so badly that we've decided never to bother doing it again. If you can't be bothered sending us a postcard to show you care...

Anyway, the last ever winner of the quote of the month competition is Christopher Garnier of Cardiff, who wins an **Amiga Format** T-shirt for correctly observing: "The quote in your February issue, 'I sentence you to be hanged and burned over a basket of live cats', is from the film *Warlock*". Well done Christopher: the prize is on the way.

Spot the shot 34



Simply identify the game that this small portion of a screen-shot is from, write the answer on a post-card with your name and address and send it in to us.

The address is Spot the Shot 34, **Amiga Format**, 30 Monmouth St, Bath BA1 2BW. The first correct entry out of the hat every month will win an **Amiga Format** T shirt!



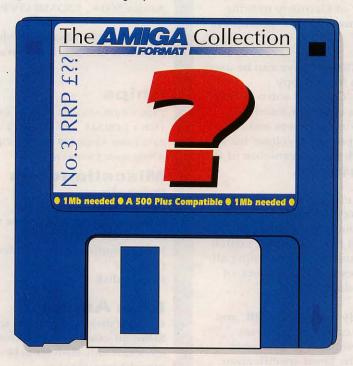
The winner of the Spot the Shot competition from Issue 32 is Neil Tunney of Hall Green, Birmingham, who correctly identified this small portion of the crowd from WWF Wrestling.

An Amiga Format T-shirt is on the way to you



The Amiga Format Collection No. 3

For the third time running, a second Coverdisk, another complete full-price program... the only question is, what will it be?



Yes, next month we will be bringing you Number Three in a continuing series of full, complete, 'serious' software. To add to your Vista scenery generator, and this month's excellent desktop publishing program, PageSetter, we aim to deliver to you yet another package that will help you explore a different aspect of your Amiga that you hadn't considered before buying one of The Amiga Format Collection.

At the time of going to press, we are just closing the deal on a top-priced essential utility for your further enjoyment of the Amiga, so you'll have to wait until May 14 to find out precisely what we've got lined up for you.

But don't worry if the 'serious' side of the Amiga isn't your particular cup of cha, because there will be another game-packed Down at the Arcade Coverdisk.

Amiga Format

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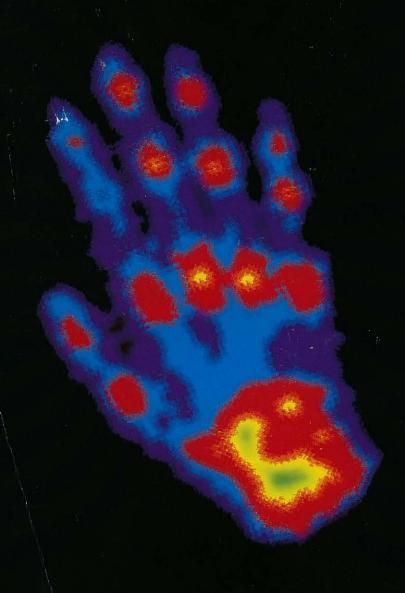
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